



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONSTRUCT

***“Compassion and tolerance are not a sign of weakness, but a sign of strength” – Dalai Lama***

### **Aims and Objectives**

The RE curriculum at Dowson has been designed with multifaceted aims and objectives. The knowledge and skills identified using the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education forms the foundation of our curriculum content, but we have developed this further to ensure that what the children are taught, and the experiences that they are afforded, reflect our school’s vision and values.

At Dowson, we aim to:

- develop pupils’ general understanding of the main religions represented in the UK, with an in-depth study of Christianity and Islam.
- ensure pupils know and remember more about faith and beliefs and enhance their understanding of how religious views influence the values, practices and behaviour of individuals and communities, societies, and cultures from local to globally.
- teach pupils to make comparisons of the religions being explored through the use of story/parables, and to express similarities in the values and expectations of followers, regardless of religion; pupils will understand how these can relate to the Dowson PACT.
- inspire pupils to reflect upon experiences and develop confidence in their own identity through the mysteries of life and the contribution that religion and spiritual dimensions bring.
- explore with older pupils a wider range of beliefs, non-belief and modern religions, enabling them to have emerging, eclectic views in an ever changing religious world.
- develop and foster positive attitudes of respect towards other people who hold views and beliefs different to their own, and towards living in a society of diverse religions and beliefs.

### **What Religious Education looks like at Dowson**

#### **Learning Connections**

At Dowson, we understand that making connections and activating prior learning is an important feature of effective pedagogy. Each unit plan will have opportunities to consolidate prior relevant learning of knowledge and skills. Each RE lesson starts with a ‘connection phase’ that reviews learning from the previous lesson, unit or year as appropriate.

#### **Skills and Knowledge**

At Dowson, we want our pupils to gain the skills and knowledge to objectively explore the main religions of the world alongside non faith and modern religions represented throughout the UK. Pupils will research these principle religions to begin to understand the key beliefs, and the impact and influence they have on modern societies in today’s world. Through this pupils will learn to have a mutual respect and curiosity towards different cultures and beliefs. To enhance and embed children’s understanding, we endeavour to enable first hand experience of handling artefacts and opportunities to visit places of worship or listen to and discuss beliefs with visitors of different faiths.

#### **Assessment**

Each RE unit will conclude with an assessment piece that teachers can use to identify and assess the knowledge acquired by pupils during the unit. Connection phases and formative assessments will be ongoing and inform short term planning.