

Key Stage Three Religious Education at Rye College

This year we are reintroducing the subject to Rye College in-line with statutory requirements for all secondary schools.

Religious education comprises Philosophy, Religion and Ethics (PRE). The vision for Religious Education in Rye College is that enables and challenges students to flourish as loving and thinking human beings in their communities and the wider world. For this reason, we not only promote a rigorously academic curriculum but also foster students' curiosity and ability to question critically and think deeply beyond the confines of exam based specifications and curriculums. Philosophical enquiry is therefore pivotal to enable this vision to materialise into the RE classroom through discussion.

Our Religious Education curriculum is in line with the East Sussex Locally Agreed Syllabus which states that the aim of religious education is "to give children and young people opportunities to explore the spiritual dimension of human experience and fundamental questions of human life, relating these to the beliefs, values and practices of believers and others and to their own developing beliefs and values."

Across the curriculum, students will tackle age related subjects and are encouraged to share their own opinions, and listen to others' views and beliefs in a safe, mutually respecting environment.

A significant part of the subject is around critical thinking skills and being able to articulate your point of view with justifiable reasoning for it. We will look at a number of examples so that our students are able to decide for themselves what they believe and why they think that way on a variety of topics.

These skills will be developed by widening their knowledge and understanding on a number of issues such as –

Term 1-2; Critical thinking skills

Term 3-4; Multi faith issues, Conflict – and resolution

Term 5-6; Respect, Diversity and Pluralism

The process for referral over concerns / potential withdrawal from Religious Education lessons

Families have the right to withdraw their child from religious education lessons by drawing in the 1996 Education Act, which states that a parent can request that for their child to be wholly or partly excused.

Process for withdrawing a child from all or part of the Religious Education lessons:

1. Families makes contact with the College and are directed to Mr Grove (Head of Religious Education);
2. Mr Grove will then contact the family and discuss any issues;
3. If the family wants to withdraw their child from Religious Education lessons, they will be asked to formally contact Mr Downes (Head of College) in writing;
4. Mr Grove will explain that in acknowledging the request to withdraw, the parents understand that it is their responsibility to provide for this aspect of the curriculum. It is that parents' responsibility to provide content for the replacement lesson - the school provides a supervised area of study (for example, the Library).

If you would like any further information, please contact Mr Grove – igrove@ryecollege.co.uk