

North Halifax  
Grammar School

Religious  
Education  
Policy



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# Religious Education Policy

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## 1.0 The purpose of Religious Education (RE)

Our vision for RE is based on the national guidance issued by the RE Council in 2013 and the local agreed syllabus, 2019. It is also driven by our whole school ethos of living to learn, learning to live and we are committed to ensuring that our RE provision for students at NHGS equips students with the knowledge, skills and understanding to help navigate life. RE at NHGS is a knowledge engaged curriculum delivered by subject specialists who encourage a thirst for learning in this academic area whilst acknowledging the distinctive contribution RE makes to pupils' SMSC development. We aim to prepare students for life in a diverse community.

Our world is enriched by a wide and profound diversity of cultures and beliefs. Human beings are strengthened and empowered by learning from each other. Engaging and stimulating RE helps to nurture informed and resilient responses to misunderstanding, stereotyping and division. It offers a place of integrity and security within which difficult or 'risky' questions can be tackled within a safe but challenging context. Religious education contributes dynamically to children and young people's education in schools by provoking challenging questions about meaning and purpose in life, beliefs about God, ultimate reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human.

In RE pupils discover, explore and consider different answers to these questions, in local, national and global contexts, through learning about and from religions and other world views. They learn to appraise the value of wisdom from different sources, to develop and express their insights in response, and to agree or disagree respectfully. Teaching should equip pupils with knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and other world views, enabling them to develop their ideas, values and identities. It should develop in pupils an aptitude for dialogue so that they can participate positively in society with its diverse understanding of life from religious and other world views. Pupils should gain and deploy the skills needed to understand, interpret and evaluate texts, sources of wisdom and authority and other evidence. They learn to articulate clearly and coherently their personal beliefs, ideas, values and experiences while respecting the right of others to differ.

### 1.1 The RE curriculum at NHGS

At NHGS the curriculum is guided by the Local Agreed Syllabus for Calderdale, Kirklees and Leeds produced by SACRE for teaching from September 2019.

The aims of RE at NHGS reflect the three aims of the syllabus:

- A. To investigate the beliefs and practices of religions and other world views, including:
  - Beliefs and authority: core beliefs and concepts; sources of authority including written traditions and leaders;
  - Worship and Spirituality: how individuals and communities express belief, commitment and emotion.
- B. To investigate how religions and other world views address questions of meaning, purpose and value, including:
  - The nature of religion and belief and its key concepts;
  - Ultimate Questions of belonging, meaning, purpose and truth.
- C. To investigate how religions and other world views influence morality, identity and diversity, including:
  - Moral decisions: teachings of religions and other world views on moral and ethical questions; evaluation, reflection and critical responses;
  - Identity and Diversity: diversity among and within religions and other world views; individual and community responses to difference and shared human values.

Curriculum content is outlined in detailed schemes of learning that are available from the school. The curriculum is regularly evaluated and reviewed to ensure relevance and best practice.

The key topic areas covered include:

**Year 7:**

Introducing beliefs, ultimate questions and world religions.

Islam

Hinduism

Sikhism

**Year 8:**

Judaism

Origins of Christianity / Life of Jesus

Philosophical questions about life and God – Holocaust studies

**Year 9:**

Buddhism: Beliefs and Practices

Christianity: Beliefs and Practices

**Year 10:**

Religious attitudes to relationships and families

Philosophical arguments for the existence of God

Religious attitudes towards Crime and Punishment

Religious attitudes towards peace and conflict

**Year 11:**

Religious approaches to matters of life and death

Religious representation in art and culture

Religion, ethics and philosophy

## **1.2 Religious Education provision**

Religious Education is delivered by the RPSE department which also covers PSHE content within this timetable allocation and calendared 'drop-down' days. RE is inclusive and accessible to all students during their time at NHGS.

Year 7 : three lessons per fortnight (2020/21 – two lessons per fortnight)

Year 8: three lessons per fortnight

Year 9: four lessons per fortnight (2020/21 – increasing to 6 lessons per fortnight to cover RS GCSE content and statutory RSE education)

Year 10: four lessons per fortnight

Year 11: four lessons per fortnight

All students in Year 11 all take a full GCSE examination in the subject. From 2021 students will sit this exam at the end of Year 10 and continue to study non-examined RE. Results have been excellent. Religious Studies is offered as an option at 'A' Level.

As active learners, students of all abilities are stimulated to realise their potential through a range of opportunities to inquire, question, develop their own responses and formulate their own views to fundamental questions of life, as they encounter and respond to religion. This is achieved through a variety of teaching and learning styles, including the use of artefacts, music, drama, videos, supported self-studies and visits.

## **1.3 Achievement and Progress**

Students are assessed regularly throughout their learning, both formatively and summatively. Homework will be set and assessed regularly to support and enhance in school learning. At KS3, there are two formal in-class assessments and an end of year examination. We will report to parents on individual pupils' achievements at 2 calendared monitoring times in the academic year.

At KS4 students will be assessed against the AQA GCSE specification criteria.

#### **1.4 Withdrawal from RE**

Parents have a statutory right to withdraw a child from religious education. If a parent is considering withdrawal from RE we will listen to their concerns, inviting them to do so with the head teacher or other representative of the school. We work hard to ensure that any reservations or doubts may be accommodated to avoid withdrawal but recognise that a parent has this right if reservations cannot be resolved. Any formal decision to withdraw should be made in writing to the head teacher. The school will arrange for appropriate arrangements to be made to supervise the pupil in school during RE lessons.