

	<h2>Religious Education Policy</h2>	
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Policy Title	Religious Education Policy	Version No	1
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Rationale	<p>The Duston School curriculum should aim to develop an environment where the students' Religious Education development can flourish. Religious Education (RE) is not a National Curriculum subject, but it is a legal requirement that 'academies and free schools must teach RE within the requirements for a locally agreed syllabus, set out in section 375 (3) of the Education Act 1996 and paragraph (5) of Schedule 19 to the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998' - SACRE Northamptonshire: The Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, 2018</p> <p>As RE is not nationally determined, a locally agreed syllabus of RE is prepared by a local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) and adopted by a local authority. It is this Northamptonshire Agreed Syllabus of Religious Education 2018-2023, which we have used as the basis of our planning and delivery of RE.</p>
Policy Statement	<p>PURPOSE OF STUDY AND AIMS</p> <p>We believe at The Duston School that RE both supports and strengthens what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. Our caring ethos and the value which we place on the development of the whole child, spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually, is reflected in the RE curriculum.</p> <p>RE provokes challenging questions about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, the self and the nature of reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human. It challenges pupils to reflect on, consider, analyse, interpret and evaluate issues of truth, belief, faith and ethics and to communicate their responses.</p> <p>At The Duston School we aim to achieve high quality RE for all pupils. RE teaching provides pupils with a systematic knowledge and understanding about Christianity, principal religions and worldviews which give life value. The principal religious traditions taught are, in accordance with guidance from the DfE, Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism. Humanism and Atheism are worldviews which are appropriate to include as part of the RE curriculum.</p> <p>RE aims to enable pupils to become religiously and theologically literate so they can engage in life in an increasingly diverse society. 'Religious literacy' focuses on the human experience of religion and belief and the development of skills for expressing these experiences. 'Theological literacy' focuses on the big concepts upon which religions are founded, such as God, creation and the afterlife and the development of skills for expressing these concepts. It is not about telling pupils what religious views they should have but rather assists them in gaining shared human understanding, developing personal identity and searching for meaning in the context of evaluating different viewpoints.</p>

The Duston School – Policy Document

	<p>CONTENT AND APPROACH</p> <p>RE is delivered on a weekly basis through the main teaching timetable in Key Stage 3, and in Key Stage 4 it is taught through a weekly tutor-time session and for two terms per year in an Extended Learning tutor-time period at the end of the school day on Mondays. This approach to learning provides our students with the opportunity to explore a range of core RE themes, and in considerable depth.</p> <p>The teaching of RE in this way involves some direct teaching and whole class, group, paired or individual activities. Through a range of strategies, such as: enquiry, exploration, discussion, asking and answering questions, artefacts, visits and visitors of faith and belief, pupils are actively engaged in learning. Through the time-tabled lessons in Key Stage 3, and both the tutor-time sessions and Extended Learning Periods in Key Stage 4 the RE curriculum focuses upon the principle religions, as outlined above, whilst the students will also explore ‘topic based learning relating to local and international issues paying attention to their religious dimensions.’ - Sacre Northamptonshire: The Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, 2018, P7</p> <p>CROSS CURRICULAR APPROACHES</p> <p>RE teaching and learning will be the means to many wider cross-curricular themes and dimensions. Pupil’s skills in oracy and literacy will be enhanced. Problem-solving, decision-making and interpersonal skills will be developed.</p> <p>RE presents the scope to explore multicultural and equal opportunities issues and for consideration of the environment. Moral questions will be raised and pupils will develop a sense of citizenship through many aspects of the explicit RE curriculum. Links will be made with people and communities within the locality.</p>
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Staff responsible	JAA		
Date approved by GB	May 2021	Review Date	May 2022