

**Belong. Aspire. Achieve.**



# Religious Studies

Parents right to Withdrawal

September 2024

Reviewer:  
Review date:  
Next review:

# AGENDA

## 1. Religious Studies

- 1.1. The purpose of Religious Studies (RS) is to support the development of student's values and their spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding. Through their learning, students are able to interpret and respond to a variety of concepts, beliefs and practices within religions and to their own and others cultural and life experiences. Students are also invited to reflect on personal responses to issues, consider other people's responses and appreciate that for some people belief in a spiritual dimension is important.
- 1.2. Learning in RS takes the form of encountering religious stories, festivals, places of worship, rituals and beliefs. Students will also consider the perspectives of different religions on ethical and moral topics, such as: life after death, crime and punishment and the Holocaust.
- 1.3. We help them to recognise the difference between right and wrong through the study of moral and ethical questions and enhance their social development by helping them to develop a sense of identity in a multicultural society.

## 2. Aims

- 2.1. Guidance from the Government makes it clear that Religious Education will include the six principal religions of the UK and nonreligious worldviews. It is hoped that this will enable students to:
  - Develop an understanding of how religious faith has shaped British culture and heritage and influences the lives of millions of people today.
  - Learn about Christianity and the other major religions that form British society, their impact on culture and politics, art and history, and on the lives of their adherents.
  - Develop understanding of religious faith as the search for the expression of truth and a deeper meaning of life.
  - Contribute to the development of pupils' own sense of self by exploring a variety of spiritual / philosophical perspective to enrich and form their own beliefs.
  - Understand current affairs and be enabled to speak about religious ideas and faith.

## 3. The Curriculum

- 3.1. RS at Eggar's School is taught in line with the Hampshire Agreed Syllabus: "Living Difference". This seeks to introduce children and young people to what a religious way of looking at, and existing in, the world may offer in leading one's life, individually and collectively.
- 3.2. Students will cover topics about living with religion in their lives, including but not limited to: the idea that to live a religious life means to subscribe to certain propositional beliefs (religion as truth); the idea that to live a religious life means to

adhere to certain practices (religion as practice); and the idea that to live a religious life is characterised by a particular way of being in and with the world, with a particular kind of awareness of, and faith in, the world and other human beings (religion as existence).

- 3.3. Learning activities address both learning about and learning from religion. RS is taught in timetabled lessons for Years 7 to 10. Decisions on which approach works best are made by the Curriculum Leader of Cultural Studies, in consultation with teachers, depending on the topic for each half term or whole school topic.
- 3.4. Each unit is 'concept' led, referring to children's own experiences and thoughts. The agreed concepts that form our curriculum are: belonging; community, love and special.

## 4. Parental right of withdrawal

- 4.1. In accordance with the Education Reform act 1988, parents have the right to withdraw their children from the teaching of RE. In order to avoid misunderstanding, we ask that parents:
  - Email their request to [enquiries@eggars.hants.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@eggars.hants.sch.uk)
  - Speak to the Curriculum Leader for Cultural Studies and a member of the Senior Leadership Team to discuss the curriculum and any issues.
- 4.2. If a student is removed from RS, it should be noted that supervision will be provided in another classroom during the timetabled RS lesson. Parents are welcome to provide alternative arrangements, including sending materials in to complete during the RS lesson.
- 4.3. It should be noted that when spontaneous enquiries relating to religion and spiritual issues are raised in other areas of the curriculum, these cannot constitute RE within the meaning of the legislation and a parent could not reasonably insist on a child being withdrawn at such times.
- 4.4. Requests for withdrawal will be reviewed with parents each academic year.