



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Last Review Date	November 2015	Next Review Date	November 2016
Leader of Policy Review	Mrs. J. Cooper, Mrs. L. Oakes		
Associated Policies	Collective Worship, Personal and Social Education (PSE)		

Introduction

Religious Education in the Alun School follows:

- the National Exemplar Framework for Religious Education for 3 to 19 year olds
- the Religious Education Guidance for 14 to 19 year olds published by Welsh Assembly Government
- the guidelines issued by Flintshire's SACRE in their 'Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education' published in May 1992.

In particular, two statements form the underlying principles:

"Religious education is part of a broader process of education which helps children and young people to make sense of the world and how they relate to it."

"Education seeks amongst other things to impart knowledge, deepen understanding, encourage informed judgments and develop positive attitudes and values. There is no place in Religious Education for the coercion of a child into any particular faith or denomination, or conversely into none at all."

Aims and Objectives

The aims of our policy are to:

- Use the unique position of Religious Education to promote the spiritual development of our students
- Help young people to develop their own personal beliefs and values
- Contribute to the moral, social and mental development of students
- Play a leading role in developing practical, analytical, aesthetic and communication skills
- Contribute to students' understanding of a very major part of human history, especially in the Welsh context and specifically within Flintshire.
- Assist students in understanding the variety of beliefs, customs and underlying values of the different cultures they are likely to encounter both within and outside of Wales.

To achieve these aims, Religious Education lessons are planned using the guidance on the skills and range of Religious Education provided in the National Exemplar Framework which identifies how the core skills can be combined to provide a stimulating and motivational experience. The range, as set out in the RE framework, identifies opportunities and contexts within which the learners can apply the religious educational skills they are developing in their RE lessons.

Key Stage 3

All students follow the Religious Education department's scheme of work for KS3 based on Flintshire SACRE's 'Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education' and the National Exemplar Framework. One hour of Religious Education per week is timetabled for each of Years 7, 8 and 9. Students with additional needs join mainstream classes for all Religious lessons and are often supported by an NNEB or ASW.

Key Stage 4

All students follow the WJEC GCSE Religious Studies short course specification. This course is delivered by specialist teachers in one hour per week.

Students are also given the opportunity to study WJEC GCSE Full Course Religious Studies within their Options Menu as part of their Learning Pathway. If they choose this option they also study a GCSE Short Course in Sociology.

Post-16

At Post-16 level there is more emphasis on students reflecting for themselves upon the questions that human experiences raise. The programme of study as set out in the National Exemplar Framework is delivered during the PSE curriculum time and through a series of one day conferences planned into the Sixth Form calendar.

These conferences focus on a central theme that relates to a fundamental question. Religious Education specialists are key members of the team who plan the conferences and external speakers are invited to contribute to the conferences alongside teachers from the school.

WJEC Advanced Level Religious Studies is offered as part of the post-16 Options Menu.

Withdrawal from Religious Education and Collective Worship

In accordance with the law, parents may request the withdrawal of their children from Religious Education and Collective Worship. On receipt of such a request the Headteacher will give the parents the opportunity to discuss the alternative arrangements. These arrangements involve the student undertaking self-supported study in the library under the supervision of the library staff.