

# The Contribution of Religious Education to a Church School or Academy Curriculum

## Supporting the values of the curriculum

Religious Education contributes to the aims of the whole school curriculum and plays an important role in a school's duty to provide a broad and balanced curriculum.

Religious Education actively promotes the values of truth, justice, and respect for all and care of the environment. It places emphasis on students valuing themselves and others and the celebration of diversity in society through understanding similarities and differences.

Religious Education recognises the changing nature of society, including changes in religious practice and expression, and the influence of religion in the local, national and global community. As such it prepares students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences that may come to them in later life.

## Supporting the Aims of the Curriculum

Aim1; The Church school or academy curriculum should aim to provide opportunities for all students to learn and achieve. Religious Education should be a stimulating, interesting and enjoyable subject for all students, whilst remaining academic, creative, challenging and rigorous. The **knowledge, skills and understanding** outlined throughout the units of study are designed to promote the best possible progress and attainment for all students.

Religious Education promotes an **enquiry approach** in which students carefully consider issues of beliefs and truth in religion. It also enhances the capacity to think coherently and consistently. This enables students to evaluate thoughtfully their own and others' views in a reasoned and informed manner.

Aim2: The Church school or academy curriculum should also aim to promote **students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC)** and prepare all students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life. Religious Education has a significant role in the promotion of SMSC development.

Through religious education programmes of study, students are enabled to appreciate their own and others' beliefs and cultures and how these impact on individuals, communities, societies and cultures.

Religious education seeks to develop students' awareness of themselves and others. This helps students to gain a clear understanding of the significance of religions and beliefs in the world today and to learn about the ways different faith communities relate to each other. The programmes of study aim to promote religious understanding, discernment and respect and to challenge prejudice and stereotyping. A sense of self-worth, encouraged through the units, helps students to reflect on their uniqueness as human beings, share their feelings and emotions with others and appreciate the importance of forming and maintaining positive relationships. As a result, the impact of and connections made, underpin lifelong learning for the future.