



The Grange School and Sports College Policy Document



1. **Title:**

Religious Education Policy

The Education Reform Act 1998 (ERA) states that, among other things, the school curriculum should promote the 'spiritual', moral (and) cultural development of students. Religious Education is a statutory part of the basic curriculum. Unlike the subjects of the National Curriculum, Religious Education is administered at a local rather than national level through an agreed syllabus. All maintained schools must provide Religious Education for all students. This includes students in the Sixth Form.

The Right of Withdrawal from Religious Education

Parents may withdraw their child from Religious Education provided they give written notification to the school. Teachers can exercise their right to withdraw from teaching the subject. However, we hope that all parents and teachers would feel comfortable with the type of Religious Education Provision.

2. **Purpose:**

It is the principle aim of Religious Education to enable students to understand the nature of religion and what it means to take religion seriously. In order for students to understand the 'nature of religion', they will need to open their personal awareness to those fundamental aspects of human experience in which religion is rooted. Religious education does not seek to impose a particular interpretation or to persuade pupils to adopt a religious viewpoint, Christian or otherwise. Rather it opens student's awareness to a range of possibilities and life stances, including humanism, giving them the means to explore these in an informed and open way. In order for students to understand what it means to take a religion seriously, they will need to develop an empathetic understanding of what it means to be a practising member of a religion and an appreciation of how religious convictions are lived out in every day life.

Religious Education enables students to explore the spiritual dimension of experience and develop the understanding of various religious (and non-religious) interpretations of life.

Effective Religious Education can:

- Assist students in their own quests for meaning and purpose
- Help them to mature in respect of their own beliefs, attitudes and values
- Encourage them to appreciate and respect the life stances of others
- Enables them to arrive at the decisions life calls for in a responsible way

3. **Aims:**

The aims of Religious Education taught at The Grange School and Sports

College are drawn from the South Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus – ‘Mystery and Meaning’, and should help students to:

- Acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of Christianity and the other principal religions represented in Great Britain
- Develop an understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures
- Develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues with reference to the teaching of the principal religions represented in Great Britain

- Enhance their spiritual, moral, cultural and social development by:
 - Developing awareness of the fundamental questions of life raised by human experience, and how religious teaching can relate to them;
 - Responding to such questions with reference to the teachings and practices of religions and to their understanding and experience;
 - Reflecting on their own beliefs, values and experiences in light of their study

- Develop respect
- Develop a positive attitude

4. Policy:

The Religious Education curriculum will be based on the two Attainment Targets set out in the Agreed Syllabus:

Attainment Target 1 – Knowledge and Understanding of religion

Attainment Target 2 – Reflection on and response to the spiritual dimension of experience.

The RE Department has drawn up Programmes of Study and Schemes of Work based on the recommendations of the Agreed Syllabus. These describe the range of learning experiences that will enable students to meet the aims of Religious Education as stated above. These learning experiences relate to the two Attainment Targets.

The Religious Education curriculum will provide opportunities for children to develop the following skills and attitudes:

Skills:

Investigations, Empathy, Synthesis, Interpretation, Evaluation, Application, Reflection, Analysis and Expression.

Attitudes:

- Commitment, fairness, respect, self-understanding and enquiry
- Details of the Programmes of Study at The Grange School and Sports College are available on request

Assessment and Reporting:

At present there is no nationally laid down assessment framework. However, the QCA has published non-statutory guidelines on assessment in Religious Education, which are in line with level descriptor assessment patterns of other National Curriculum subjects. In accordance with the recently revised agreed syllabus, Religious Education at The Grange School and Sports College is assessed using levels. These are reported on to parents in accordance with the school assessment procedures and at the end of Key Stage 3. At Key Stage 4 all students follow a GCSE course in Religious Education and have the opportunity to take either a full or short course examination at the end of Year 11.

5. Relationship to other Policies:

- Equal Opportunities
- Anti-Bullying

6. Monitoring, Review and Evaluation:

- Senior Leadership Team
- Governors – Curriculum, Learning and Teaching

Adopted by Full Governing Body on: March 2009

Review Date: March 2011