



Innovation, Aspiration and Excellence

Collective Worship and RE Policy

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1. Introduction

The Governing Board believe that the ethos of Houlton School (the academy) should value the central contribution of Christianity to Britain's history and heritage, and how this underpins the moral framework of the British values of Democracy, Rule of Law, Respect and Acceptance of Difference, and Individual Liberty.

The academy has carefully considered the locally agreed syllabus along with the demographics of Houlton when designing the curriculum plans. Our curriculum is diverse and will give students the opportunity to explore and reflect upon different religions and worldviews. Religious studies at Houlton will give students a safe place in which to discuss, debate and evaluate big life questions as well as introduce them to the skills and methods required to question and evaluate the world around them. These curriculum plans can be found on the Houlton School website.

Moreover, at Houlton, the Key Stage 3 (KS3) curriculum in RE is tailored to cater to individual student needs, making it personalised and engaging. The emphasis is on connecting the subject matter to real-life experiences and current global issues. By doing so, students can relate to and understand the relevance of what they're learning in the classroom to the world around them. This approach not only helps in making the subject more relatable but also encourages critical thinking and a deeper understanding of how religious and ethical concepts apply to contemporary society. It enables students to develop a broader perspective and engage more actively with the subject matter.

All maintained schools have a statutory duty to provide a broad and balanced curriculum which includes RE to students aged 11-18.

Across the UK, parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE on the grounds that they wish to provide their own RE. This RE provision will be the parents' responsibility. The academy accepts the right of parents/carers to withdraw their children as a matter of conscience, although we encourage participation in our programme as Houlton School's curriculum is **not** one of religious instruction. Religious Education will be taught to all year groups in the academy and will teach children **about** Christianity and other major world faiths and belief systems, as well as non-religious groups.

The curriculum will recognise the links between RE and the pastoral ethos of the academy and with the programme of PHRSE. The academy ensures that a time for personal reflection takes place each day in tutor time and additionally each week through a programme of year group assemblies.

2. Assemblies

The programme for assemblies is set annually. Assemblies may make use of local religious figures, visiting speakers and other guests. However, they are usually led by a member of the Leadership Team.

All assemblies should aim to be positive and will always make explicit reference to at least one of the core British Values stated above.

3. Religious Education with the Curriculum

RE is a core part of the taught curriculum throughout the school and follows the agreed syllabus – see Curriculum Policy.

4. Other Curriculum Time

Teachers take opportunities that arise to discuss issues of religion, philosophy, morality and ethics.

Pupils have access to a suitable place to pray or reflect during the day, should they so wish. Due to the expanding nature of Houlton school the location is subject to change therefore students should ask Mrs Ghatora should they wish to utilise this provision.

Note: for reasons of copyright, the Warwickshire Agreed Syllabus for RE is not published online. However, parents/carers may request to inspect a copy of this document at any time.