



## Religious and Philosophy Education Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually by the strategic development committee of the governing body.

Date of last review: Summer 2018

Date of next review: Summer 2019

### Introduction

Religious education here at Carlton le Willows Academy is called Religion and Philosophy (RP). RP provokes challenging questions about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, the self and the nature of reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human. It develops pupils' knowledge and understanding of Christianity, other principal religions, other religious traditions, and other world views that offer answers to these challenging questions. It offers opportunities for personal reflection and spiritual development. It enhances pupils' awareness and understanding of religions and beliefs, teachings, practices and forms of expression, as well as of the influence of religion on individuals, families, communities and cultures. Pupils are encouraged to learn from different religions, beliefs and traditions while exploring their own beliefs and questions of meaning. They learn to articulate clearly and coherently their own personal beliefs, ideas, values and experiences while respecting the right of others to differ. Religious education reflects British values and contributes to community cohesion. Additionally, questions raised by an enquiry centred RP curriculum develop pupils who are able to reflect upon the human condition and character.

Carlton le Willows Academy delivers religious education in line with the Nottinghamshire Agreed Syllabus. The new Nottinghamshire Agreed Syllabus was published in January 2015.

### Aims

There are three aims for religious education in Nottinghamshire and these are delivered through enquiries at Carlton le Willows Academy within RP:

- a) Know about and understand a range of religions and world views.
- b) Express ideas and insights about the nature, significance and impact of religions and world views.
- c) Gain and deploy the skills needed to engage seriously with religions and world views.

RP at Carlton le Willows Academy reflects and promotes British values and supports the development of good character:

- Enabling pupils to distinguish right from wrong and respect the law.
- To understand ways that people can contribute positively to the lives of others.
- Encourage respect and tolerance for the culture, religion and way of life of others.
- Deepen understanding of the beliefs and practices of people with different or no religion.

## **Objectives**

The aims of the Nottinghamshire Agreed Syllabus are exemplified by the following learning objectives:

A1 – Explain and interpret ways that the history and culture of religions and world views influence individuals and communities.

A2 – Explain and interpret a range of beliefs, teachings and sources of wisdom and authority.

A3 – Explain how and why individuals and communities express meanings, beliefs and values in different ways of living.

B1 – Explain the religions and world views clearly and coherently.

B2 – Observe and interpret ways commitment and identity are expressed.

B3 – Analyse the nature of religion.

C1 – Explore ultimate questions raised by human life and draw upon art, media and philosophy.

C2 – Examine and evaluate issues about community cohesion and respect.

C3 – Explore and express insights into moral and ethical questions, using real life, fiction or other forms of media.

## **Curriculum delivery**

A designated team of staff teach religion and philosophy.

There is discrete provision for RP in Carlton le Willows Academy with curriculum time of one period a week in years 7, 8 and 9. Further study is provided through optional GCSE RE Ethics and Philosophy, AS and A2 courses.

Cross curricular objectives are evident in schemes of work such as literacy, SMSC, numeracy, critical thinking and the use of ICT. Pupils complete literacy projects within RP across key stage 3.

There are extracurricular opportunities for pupils including:

- festival fun lunch events for years 7 and 8;
- meditation courses for all years;

The RP department also engages with religious believers through visits to the Gurdwara, synagogue and local church. Religious visitors are involved in lesson planning and delivery. We are implementing a rolling programme of contacting parents/guardians of pupils who have a faith to invite them to contribute to the RP lessons and also for them to make comments upon planned lessons. Their comments have been integrated into plans for year 8 and three new lessons were devised based on their wishes. We feel their contribution makes sure that RP lessons reflect the faith of the local community.

All pupils have regular points in the year when they have opportunities to reflect on their lessons using student voice forms, which are kept in the department quality assurance folder. Student voice surveys are conducted within the department across year groups. Feedback from pupils is used to help inform future planning in the subject.

### **The right of withdrawal from RP**

At Carlton le Willows Academy, we wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from religious education on the grounds of conscience. This would follow consultation with the Academy and the religion and philosophy department.

### **Consultation access to information**

Each September, parents of pupils in years 7 to 9 receive an information letter about RE provision. This letter explains what pupils will be studying in the subject throughout the year.

In 2017 – 2018 we will continue our contact with parents/guardians of pupils who have a faith, enabling parents to make suggestions and contributions so that the curriculum reflects their local faith experience.

The RE policy can be downloaded from the Academy website.