

# Religious education and collective worship policy

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT HACH

HACH follow the locally agreed Thurrock SACRE guidance for teaching Religious Education. This includes an exploration of enquiry questions that cover the 'believe', 'expressing' and 'living' component of faith. At Key Stage 3 this includes understanding the concept of faith, its function for the individual and society as well as reflective questions such as the purpose of life, the afterlife and ethical consideration of the use of violence and medical ethical issues. Students investigate these questions through the lenses of a range of religions as well as Humanism. The aim of which is to introduce students to different ways of viewing the world and ways of living. We aim to investigate together significant human questions and be able to appreciate and appraise various responses with curiosity and care as well as developing responses of their own.

As students' progress to KS4 they explore the Beliefs and Practices of both Christianity and Buddhism. They also apply these teachings to four ethical/philosophical themes: Social Justice, Equality, Human Relationships and Religion and Life (AQA specification).

The Religious Education provided allows students to make reasoned and informed choices about key ethical dilemmas which may be presented to students throughout their lives; as they learn both about and from religion. It is also a method of delivering key fundamental British Values and promoting religious tolerance in the community. Embedded within our curriculum are the principles of promoting positive well-being and belonging, community cohesion as well as the moral and spiritual development of our students.

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

Students are all given the opportunity to develop socially, morally, spiritually and culturally in an activity or experience that is separate from normal academic school activities. At HACH, these activities also draw students' attention to the values that we hold as important to develop within each student. These values include achieving one's personal best, developing an appreciation of others and enabling students to grow up into responsible members of our community. As a non-faith/ non-denominational school we do not lead any formal collective worship, but we do embrace students that chose to do so and join in celebrations throughout the year. Students and staff both have access to our multi-prayer room if they wish to use this facility for worship. We also open our doors to the local community as the local Christian church use our facility on Sundays for worshipping.

## STRATEGY

Religious Studies within HACH focuses on the need to prepare our students to play a full and active role in society, with a thorough understanding of religious and cultural difference in a pluralistic society. This is accomplished through quality teaching of the history of religions, differing theologies and their social presence in the public sphere. Religious Studies in HACH also compliments our SMSC and PSHE offer to develop our students' understanding and appreciation of diversity, to promote shared values and to challenge racism, discrimination and extremism. We also focus on the

impact of religion and religious ethics on our local communities. Students at HACH are able to tackle these topics in a reasoned, nonprejudicial manner, and are enabled through quality teaching to critically analyse sources of authority and religious teachings and philosophies. We pride ourselves on ensuring that our students leave our school as well rounded citizens. They have a holistic understanding of British Values related to (particularly) Abrahamic faiths ethics, as well as knowledge of all other major world faiths and humanism increasing an awareness and appreciation of the changing face of British society (as per section 375 (3) of the Education Act 1996). Religious Education is mapped against the Thurrock agreed SACRE syllabus.

## **OUR STRUCTURE**

Religious Studies is compulsory for all Key Stage 3 students.

Year 7 – 9 classes, 2 contact hours per fortnight

Year 10 – 11, 4 contact hours per fortnight if it was a selected option

Year 12-13, 10 contact hours per fortnight if it was a selected option

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