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Key Stage 4



Key Stage Four

At Key Stage Four schools are required to teach religious education. This has led to most schools following a syllabus from either one of the range of GCSE Religious Studies Short or Long Courses. The choice of course will be left to the school but will include a study of Christianity and at least one other principal religion. In order to deliver the programmes of study, schools will need to devote 5% of curriculum time to RE at Key Stage Four.

At all key stages the programmes of study incorporate two components which relate to the attainment targets.

AT1 – Learning about religions

During Key Stage Four pupils should be given opportunities to:

- Use appropriate language to develop their knowledge and understanding of the key beliefs, values and traditions of the religions studied.
- Recognise the variety of beliefs and practices within one religious tradition and identify how they may change over time.
- Reflect on secular and religious stories with a moral or spiritual dimension and respond thoughtfully and critically to key features and behaviours.
- Develop the ability to devise and ask relevant questions when investigating religious traditions.
- Consider how belonging to a faith tradition can make a difference to the life-style and moral attitudes of individuals and communities.

AT2 – Learning from religion and human experience

During Key Stage Four pupils should be given opportunities to:

- Respond with supporting evidence to a range of contemporary moral and religious issues and human experiences.
- Evaluate, using appropriate evidence, peoples different responses to religious and other views on human identity and moral issues.
- Reflect upon their own attitudes, behaviours and experiences and evaluate with reference to inspirational texts and personalities.
- Show respect when visiting places of worship, handling artefacts and listening to others.

Requirements at Key Stage Four

The study of at least Christianity and one other principal religion.

The learning objectives of a long or short GCSE course.

Religious Education at Post 16

The law and this Agreed Syllabus require schools to provide religious education for all 16-19 year old students in maintained schools.

Religious Education Post 16 provides an opportunity for students to develop and extend work from earlier key stages. It should make a significant contribution to the students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development as they prepare for life beyond schools. Schools can approach the fulfilment of these legal requirements in one or more of the following ways:

- Through discrete RE courses; schools may, for example, wish to take the opportunity to follow a nationally accredited short/long GCSE or A/S course.
- As part of a general studies/school enrichment programme.
The organisation of such may include a series of religious education days incorporating a variety of visits, workshops and speakers.
- A project-based flexible learning approach which gives students time to develop particular interests – possibly leading to an internally awarded certificate.