

ARCHBISHOP BLANCH SCHOOL



Archbishop Blanch
— SCHOOL —

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

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GOVERNOR COMMITTEE:	Curriculum
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ARCHBISHOP BLANCH CE HIGH SCHOOL

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

This policy should be taken and used as part of Archbishop Blanch Church of England School's overall strategy and implemented within the context of our Mission Statement and Instrument of Government aims.

As a Church of England School, we accept and respect all members of our community as unique children of God, precious in His sight and of infinite worth.

The aim of Religious Education in Archbishop Blanch is to enable students to develop an understanding of the religious dimension of life, to appreciate the relationship between religious belief and codes of behaviour and to examine the ways in which religious belief is expressed through symbol, ritual, forms of worship and festival.

The aim is also to help children mature in relation to their own patterns of belief and behaviour through exploring religious beliefs and practices and related human experiences.

All human beings are involved in acquiring and developing attitudes and behaviour patterns, having beliefs and acting on them is one of the most important features of the human species. The role of Religious Education within Archbishop Blanch, however, is one of education, not promotion of a particular religious tradition.

Religious Education staff develop an open, critical and sympathetic approach to the subject. Religious Education lessons are not seen as an opportunity to instruct in a particular faith yet to embrace the traditions of all World Faiths.

The Religious Education department has a crucial contribution to make to the ethos of the school. The aim is for teaching and learning to take place in an atmosphere where all are valued, safe and able to contribute; where there are sound relationships between staff and students; where there is respect and dignity for all in an ordered and calm environment; where challenge and standards are high.

Religious Education makes a significant contribution to multicultural education. It is a stated aim of Archbishop Blanch to encourage all students to acquire knowledge, understanding, tolerance and respect for the people and customs of cultures other than their own. We live in a culturally diverse society; the makeup of our school community reflects this, the Religious Education department openly encourages awareness and respect for all beliefs and ways of life.

At Archbishop Blanch Religious Education is taught to all students as a discrete subject by specialist staff. The Key Stage 3 syllabus follows the guidelines laid down in the Diocesan Framework and assessment is based on the two attainments targets: Learning about Religion and Learning from Religion. All students sit a Religious Education GCSE examination at the end of year 11. GCSE students follow the AQA Full Course Specification A, which includes a study of the beliefs and teaching of Christianity and Islam, alongside study of the ethics and philosophy of these religions, in relation to current world affairs. At A-Level students follow Eduqas Full Course Specification studying Christianity, Philosophy and Ethics sitting all three exams at the end of Year 13.

Governors acknowledge the rights of parents to withdraw their child(ren) from Religious Education lessons and acts of worship. However, this has never been an issue and at Archbishop Blanch we would hope that any concerns would be raised and discussed making such a move unnecessary. Given that this is a Christian school, it is entirely appropriate that our worship rests heavily on the traditions of Christianity but the emphasis in the design is that all should feel welcome and able to participate and none should feel the need to withdraw. It is extremely important to us that all members feel valued members of our school community.