

Religious Education Year 7 Rationale

Composite 1: What is religion?

In 'What is religion?' students will explore why Religious Education matters and how it helps them understand themselves and others. The composite is designed to ensure every student feels a sense of belonging, recognising that the classroom is a safe space where different beliefs, backgrounds and experiences are valued. Students will learn that people can disagree respectfully, reflect on what they personally believe and understand that their identity and worldview are important. Students will be introduced to the major world religions, how they are represented locally, regionally and nationally and develop a deeper understanding of the key features of: Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Sikhism and Humanism exploring how they are similar and different.

Throughout this composite, students will develop the virtues of respect, empathy and open-mindedness and feel educated, equipped and empowered to navigate the world with confidence and compassion.

The curriculum is intentionally sequenced, includes regular retrieval to build long-term memory, and is supported by scaffolded tasks and opportunities for discussion enabling all students to access complex ideas, achieve and thrive.

Composite 2: What can we learn from places of worship?

In 'What can we learn from places of worship?' students will explore what makes a place special or sacred and why these places matter to different communities. This composite is designed so every student feels they belong, with opportunities to share their own experiences of special places.

Students will examine the key features of Christian, Muslim, Sikh and Buddhist places of worship, comparing the purpose and function of the items found within them and exploring the role these places play in supporting the lives of both religious believers and those outside faith communities.

Learning is supported specifically by visuals and sensory experiences to deepen understanding ensuring all students can achieve and thrive.

Throughout this composite, students will develop empathy, respect and curiosity helping them grow into educated, equipped and empowered members of a diverse society.

Composite 3: What is it like to be a member of a particular religion?

In 'What is it like to be a member of a particular religion?' students explore how and why Muslims express their faith, and the challenges they may face when following religious rules within a diverse society. This composite is designed so students feel they belong, within a safe and respectful environment where different identities, experiences and viewpoints are valued.

Students learn to recognise and challenge the realities of Muslim life in modern Britain, and appreciate the value of mutual respect and tolerance, skills that are essential in our ever-changing world.

This composite is thoughtfully structured, supported by visuals and a guest speaker from the Muslim community sharing their lived experience connecting learning with real-life practice, enabling all students to achieve and thrive.

Throughout, students will be educated with an accurate, balanced knowledge of

Islam, equipped with the critical thinking skills needed to question assumptions and empowered to contribute positively to their communities by promoting fairness and empathy.