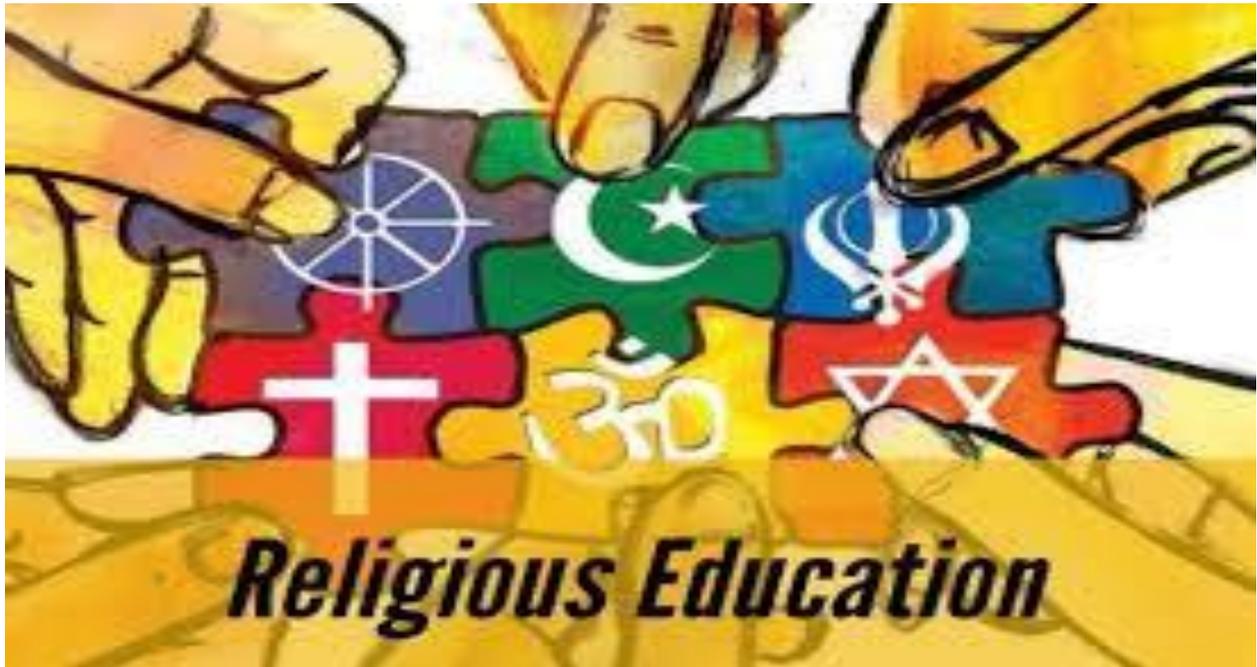


Religious Education at Shaw



WHY do we teach this subject? (What does it add to the education of each child?)

As a CofE school the Christian faith is a vital reference point for all that we do. In our daily life as a school we aim to live out the promise that Jesus can to “give life in all its fullness.” We also recognise that other religions and worldviews are equally valid expressions of this fullness of life.

Our RE teaching reflects the plurality of worldviews and seeks to educate and inform and allow children to formulate their own thinking. It is not evangelical in any form.

The Principal Aim of RE at Shaw School is to engage pupils in enquiring into key questions arising from the study of religion and belief, so as to promote their personal and spiritual development.

“The study of religious and non-religious worldviews is a core component of a rounded academic education. This has long been recognised as essential in Britain. Indeed, one could argue that it is more important now than ever. Young people today are growing up in a world where there is increasing awareness of the diversity of religious and non-religious worldviews, and they will need to live and work well with people with very different worldviews from themselves. One need only glance at a newspaper to know that it is impossible fully to understand the world without understanding worldviews – both religious and non-religious.” (Core report)

WHAT do we teach?

We follow the Wiltshire Agreed Syllabus for RE, using both Discovery RE (For other World Religions) and Understanding Christianity (For Christianity) to deliver the Syllabus.

We are also fully aware and in agreement with the recommendations of the CORE report on Religious Education which recommends an entitlement for each child as follows;

Pupils must be taught:

1. about matters of central importance to the worldviews studied, how these can form coherent accounts for adherents, and how these matters are interpreted in different times, cultures and places
2. about key concepts including 'religion', 'secularity', 'spirituality' and 'worldview', and that worldviews are complex, diverse and plural
3. the ways in which patterns of belief, expression and belonging may change across and within worldviews, locally, nationally and globally, both historically and in contemporary times
4. the ways in which worldviews develop in interaction with each other, have some shared beliefs and practices as well as differences, and that people may draw upon more than one tradition
5. the role of religious and non-religious ritual and practices, foundational texts, and of the arts, in both the formation and communication of experience, beliefs, values, identities and commitments
6. how worldviews may offer responses to fundamental questions of meaning and purpose raised by human experience, and the different roles that worldviews play in providing people with ways of making sense of their lives
7. the different roles played by worldviews in the lives of individuals and societies, including their influence on moral behaviour and social norms
8. how worldviews have power and influence in societies and cultures, appealing to various sources of authority, including foundational texts
9. the different ways in which religion and worldviews can be understood, interpreted and studied, including through a wide range of academic disciplines and through direct encounter and discussion with individuals and communities who hold these worldviews.

What are our end-points? What knowledge, skills and understanding do we want children to have on leaving Shaw School?

- A secure understanding and knowledge of the religions studied.
- An ability to readily engage with a range of ultimate questions about the meaning and significance of existence.
- The ability to ask significant and reflective questions about religion and demonstrate a good understanding of issues relating to the nature, truth and value of religion.
- A strong understanding of how the beliefs, values, practices and ways of life within any religion cohere together.
- The ability to link the study of religion and belief to personal reflections on meaning a purpose.
- The ability to exemplify the School's Christian values with reference to Biblical stories.