

<b>Policy Title:</b>	Religious Education
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## THE OXFORD ACADEMY

The Oxford Academy is a learning environment at the heart of its community. We promote care and respect and expect high standards in all aspects of Academy life.

We aim to build a community clearly based on a Christian ethos, recognising the integrity and the unique value of each individual and that many people of all faiths and none share and support the beliefs and values of this Christian ethos. We aim to build self-esteem, model conflict resolution and protect the vulnerable. We are committed to justice and compassion. Mutual respect and trust are central within the Academy.

Our vision for The Oxford Academy is based on the following beliefs:

- Education matters in society: the provision of a well ordered, stimulating learning environment is a common right for all our children
- The Academy should articulate social and moral values and respect for others, irrespective of their class, gender, race or religion
- The Academy will promote the highest achievement in youngsters, irrespective of their abilities or self-expectations. Competition and collaboration are both equally important to learning. The aspirations of all our students will be nurtured
- The Academy will celebrate students' achievements and challenge fixed notions of ability. We will value and reward young people's verbal, practical, academic, sporting, artistic and leadership skills
- An effective and flourishing Academy should be "public" rather than "private", explaining to parents what is being taught and how the curriculum is being interpreted. It should be open to praise and constructive feedback in a genuine spirit of partnership
- An effective Academy should work closely with neighbouring schools to improve opportunities for children and young people
- The work of the Academy will be underpinned at all times by its ultimate aim – to improve standards, achievement and the life chances of young people. The Oxford Academy is to be, first and foremost, a place of high quality learning and teaching for young people aged 11-19

This policy, and its associated procedures and protocols, is based on these key principles.

# Religious Education

## 1. Rationale

- 1.1 Religious Education is unique in the school curriculum in that it is neither a core subject nor a foundation subject but governing boards and headteachers, like Local Authorities (LAs), must ensure that Religious Education is provided as part of the school's basic curriculum.
- 1.2 All academies, through their funding agreements, are required to teach Religious Education.

## 2. Aims

- 2.1 In Religious Education at The Oxford Academy we aim that students:
  - develop a knowledge and understanding of Christianity and its impact on our local community and on our society today
  - develop a knowledge and understanding of some of the other major religious traditions represented in the United Kingdom today
  - develop a sense of respect for religious traditions, beliefs and practice
  - appreciate moments of reflection
  - grow in their spiritual development
  - develop a sense of awe and wonder and mystery
  - develop skills and attitudes which will support their personal, moral, social and cultural development
  - explore questions of meaning and consider how Christians and other world religions have responded to them
  - think about their own beliefs and values in the light of the beliefs of others, both religious and non-religious, and the values of the Academy community

### **3. Approaches to the Teaching of Religious Education**

- 3.1 In order to make Religious Education a lively, active subject we employ a variety of teaching methods including art, music, discussion, the development of thinking skills, drama, the use of artefacts, pictures, stories and the use of periods of stillness and reflection.
- 3.2 Where possible we want our students to have opportunities to encounter local faith communities through visits to local places of worship or visits from members of local faith communities to the Academy.
- 3.3 The scheme for Religious Education follows The Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in Oxfordshire (launched June 2007). Religious education is delivered to all students. Short course and full GCSE are offered at Key Stage 4.
- 3.4 The Head of Curriculum (Discovery) will monitor Religious Education within the Academy in line with the Academy's monitoring and evaluation procedures.

### **4. The Right of Withdrawal from Religious Education**

- 4.1 At the Academy we wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents, of course, have the legal right to withdraw their children from Religious Education on the grounds of conscience. We would ask any parent considering this to contact the Principal to discuss any concerns or anxieties they may have about the policy, provision and practice of Religious Education at the Academy. Parents should confirm in writing to the Principal their wish for children to be withdrawn

### **5. Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

- 5.1 The Governing Board will review this policy at least every two years and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the Academy.