



Thornby Hall School

Policy for the Teaching of Religious Studies

Introduction

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for the teaching of Religious Studies at Thornby Hall.

This policy was written in September 2014 and is due for review in September 2015.

Religious Studies plays a vital part in the study of the beliefs and practices of the religions within our multi-cultural society. It offers the opportunity to explore both the beliefs of others and also to reflect upon our own beliefs and ideas.

Aims

In line with the Northamptonshire Agreed Syllabus for RE, our aims are:

- To learn about religious traditions, beliefs and practices, and to understand that they are a response to fundamental questions of human existence.
- To be given the opportunity to reflect on and make decisions about a personal response to questions of meaning and value.

In studying Religious Studies pupils develop skills in reading, writing and evaluating, with an emphasis on working with the whole school literacy approach in 2014.

Schemes of Work are based around the QCA RE Schemes of Work document and the Northamptonshire Agreed Syllabus for RE.

Teaching Strategies

- All pupils are expected to study RS for the equivalent of at least 1 session per week in both KS3 and KS4, as a discrete subject in KS3 and as part of the COPE programme or Humanities teaching in KS4.

- Work is set based on pupils' individual needs and a range of teaching strategies is employed.
- KS3 work is a foundation for GCSE work and topics are covered both thematically and religions based.
- KS4 students study the AQA World Religions course with the option of being entered for either Short or Full course papers.

Homework

Homework is set as appropriate to support work done in the lesson.

Assessment

- Pupils' work is informally assessed throughout the year with both written and verbal comments.
- Targets to suggest how to improve work are regularly written in books and verbally explained.
- Pupils are encouraged to respond to written comments and targets in books with their own evaluations, to help clarify their learning and targets.
- Formal assessments take place with an exam week in school in either the first or second term.

Recording and Reporting

Pupils receive formal written reports before each LAC review and two progress reports during the year. Records of pupils' work are kept in the subject teachers planning file and the pupils work folder. Pupils' progress is discussed as necessary with their keyworker.

Role of the subject Co-ordinator

The subject co-ordinator is responsible for planning, resourcing and the teaching of Religious Studies to all pupils.

Health and Safety Issues

All Health and Safety regulations are followed in accordance with the overall Thornby Hall Policy and individual child risk assessments.

Resources

The department has a range of resources, books, and artefacts as detailed in separate document.

Development Plan

- To continue building up text book resources across KS4.
- To write new schemes of work for GCSE Hinduism.
- To incorporate more extended writing and literacy based work into RS, using Thornby Hall Literacy Toolkit, and in line with whole school literacy drive.
- To familiarise self with curriculum changes as from September 2014