

'Ensuring our students have the education and character to go on to live happy, fulfilled lives as the drivers of their own destinies.'

Ark Soane Academy

Religious Education Policy

2021-22

Date of last review:	May 2021	Author:	Principal
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Type of policy:	<input type="checkbox"/> Network-wide <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tailored by school	Approval:	Project Board
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ARK MODEL

Component	Element
<input type="checkbox"/> Strategic Leadership & Planning	Curriculum
<input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring, Reporting & Data	
<input type="checkbox"/> Governance & Accountabilities	
<input type="checkbox"/> Teaching & Learning	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Curriculum & Assessment	
<input type="checkbox"/> Culture, Ethos & Wellbeing	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pathways & Enrichment	
<input type="checkbox"/> Parents & Community	
<input type="checkbox"/> Finance, IT & Estates	
<input type="checkbox"/> Our People	

1. The Purpose of RE

The principal aims of Religious Education at Ark Soane Academy are to:

- Equip students with an entitlement of knowledge of World Religions, non-religious worldviews, the philosophy of religion, and ethics;
- Enable students to understand and reflect upon the beliefs, practices, insights and experiences that are expressed in humanity's search for meaning;
- Provide opportunities for students to explore and express their own responses and personal beliefs.

This policy is a working document, providing a framework and guidance on all aspects of RE within Ark Soane Academy, including the curriculum & how it is implemented.

2. Context

Ark Soane Academy is a non-selective, non-religious coeducational school.

By law, Academies and Free Schools can choose which agreed syllabus to use or create a syllabus of their own.

Ark Soane Academy recognises the importance of Religious Education (RE) in the school's curriculum. We see the importance of RE as an academic discipline in its own right. Ark Soane Academy also recognises the excellent contribution RE makes to the school's ethos; the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development across the school as well as the personal development of each student.

Ark Soane's RE Curriculum gives students a deep and broad understanding of six major world religions, Judeo-Christian scripture and key debates in the philosophy of religion and ethics. It is aligned with Ark Soane Academy's knowledge-rich curriculum and broader Curriculum Intent.

3. Legal requirements

Every student registered in a school must be taught Religious Education. Free Schools are Academies in law and have the same requirement to provide RE and collective worship. All Academies have to provide RE for all their students, except for those whose parents exercise the right of withdrawal.

The curriculum provided must 'promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, social, mental, and physical development of students' and 'prepare students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life'.

Maintained schools must follow the locally Agreed syllabus (Ealing 2020) while academies and free schools must teach RE within the requirements for a locally agreed syllabus, set out in section 375 (3) of the Education Act 1996 and paragraph (5) of Schedule 19 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The requirements are that a syllabus must 'reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are, in the main, Christian while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain'. Ark Soane Academy's RE curriculum meets all these expectations in law.

4. The Curriculum

At Key Stage 3, our curriculum is designed to include knowledge of major World Religions.

Students, whether they have a faith or not, benefit from an awareness of what life is like from a religious point of view. A knowledge and understanding of the features, ideas and practices

of the focused religions in each key stage is important, so that the student can distinguish between the religions and understand what religion entails. There is a need to appreciate the values and attitudes which individuals in a faith group hold true and the effects that these have on the community.

It is not possible to include the diversity in our Key Stage 3 curriculum in the GCSE specification and therefore the Key Stage 4 curriculum will focus on the two largest world religions of Christianity and Islam as well as Philosophical, Social and Moral questions.

5. Right of withdrawal:

Parents (or students who are over 18) have the right to withdraw their children either partly or wholly from RE. In addition, teachers have the right not to teach the subject. Our inclusive, non-confessional approach to RE, however, has been constructed in the hope that parents and teachers will rarely, if ever, wish to exercise their right of withdrawal.