

Religious Studies

Vision and Intent



Co-op Academy
Grange

Our Vision for Religious Studies at Co-op Academy Grange

Consideration for the perspectives of others, as well as understanding about religions and traditions from around the world, is an essential component of promoting empathy and tolerance. Religious Studies at Co-op Academy Grange aims to help students in accomplishing this by building religious literacy, which includes an understanding of both religious and non-religious perspectives. The knowledge and skills they receive will enable them to live in harmony in a diverse and accepting society. Furthermore, by remaining open-minded and accepting of all forms of diversity, our students will be better prepared to navigate the world. Religious Studies at Co-op Academy Grange will teach students how to critically examine religious knowledge and issues resulting in cohesive, rational, and reasoned viewpoints.

Co-op Academy Grange's catchment region is large and diverse, with numerous students facing socioeconomic issues. With this in mind, the Religious Studies curriculum is designed to be inclusive, culturally sensitive, challenging, and accessible to students. Our objective is that our offering will be the key to prosperous futures. Expert teaching, career guidance, and enrichment activities will build a thirst for achievement in our pupils, allowing them to learn effectively while maintaining their dignity and self-esteem.

Our Intent for Religious Studies at Co-op Academy Grange

The overarching intent of the Religious Studies curriculum at Co-op Academy Grange is to empower our students to develop their own beliefs, values, and opinions, while also promoting open-mindedness and respect for the beliefs and opinions of others. We view these skills as essential for their spiritual growth and social integration in a diverse and ever-changing world. The acquired skills will enable our students to prepare for their futures with confidence, tolerance and understanding of all faiths or none.

Key Stage 2 knowledge, skills, and understanding will be successfully built on, ensuring coherence and continuity across the key stages. Throughout our curriculum, we will use real-world examples and events to assist students understand and link our topics so that they can reflect on the past, examine the present, and sustain the future. Ultimately, we aim to equip students with the tools and skills they need to play an active, well-informed, and responsible role in their communities.

Varied assessments that provide clear information will inform planning and secure strong progress. Importantly, the assessments will check prior knowledge and understanding so that further knowledge and understanding is built on secure foundations. We will continually evaluate and adapt what we offer in the Religious Studies curriculum to ensure it is coherent, of high quality and provides inclusive opportunities for all.

Implementation

Through our Religious Studies curriculum, we aim to help students build an understanding of Abrahamic and Dharmic religions as well as Humanist approaches to promote the idea of community cohesion and mutual respect. We believe that acknowledging and understanding the reasoning behind different views will enable our students to have a better understanding of their own beliefs as well as recognition of diversity at local, national, and global levels in order to become more actively informed citizens. Our curriculum will also help students understand different points of view and cultures around important issues such as how religion promotes equality, multi-faith Britain, death, views on marriage and other aspects that become relevant and topical to students during their study at Co-op Academy Grange. In the interest of mutual collaboration with schools within the Bradford and Kirklees areas, threads of the Locally Agreed Syllabus have been imbedded within our curriculum offering. Furthermore, students will develop cross-curricular learning skills with other subjects particularly History, ICT, Science and Maths departments. These collaborations will enable our students to progress and succeed in school and beyond. Our department also works collaboratively with other organisations to create meaningful connections thereby promoting interdisciplinary learning and the practical application of knowledge.

At KS3 we offer a combined approach of Abrahamic, Non-religious and Dharmic Faiths whereas at KS4 our options students focus on Islam and Christianity for their GCSE. Our KS4 programme develops the learning from KS3 in more depth and breadth but specifications have carefully been chosen to retain the key principles of our statement of intent.

Religious education is important for our children's education because it fosters critical thinking and contemplation about the meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God and ultimate reality, moral dilemmas, and the intricacies of human existence. Co-op Academy Grange's Religious Studies programme is designed to be both intellectually challenging and personally inspiring, assisting our students in navigating the modern world and exploring themes and concepts that are relevant to them. Our objective is to actively engage, motivate, and challenge our students while also providing them with the knowledge and skills required to tackle complex questions and understand a wide range of perspectives.

Impact

A successful Religious Studies student will be passionate about religion and be able to hold a persuasive but considerate discussion about religion or secular perspectives. In addition, they will acquire and use tier two and three vocabulary to meet the demands of a competitive world. Their reasoning will be founded on a thorough understanding of religion and belief. Our students will be able to find similarities between themes and incorporate them into their daily lives. As an independent and critical thinker, their written work will be logical with reasoned evaluations of all parts of the question. Judgements will be fully backed by proven appraisals, resulting in thoroughly justified conclusions.

Furthermore, our student will be well-versed in religious as well as non-religious perspectives. They will aim to expand their knowledge and understanding of religious ideas, beliefs, and sources of wisdom and authority, mostly by reading religious literature and scriptures from the religions they are studying. Their strength is their ability to create well-argued, well-informed, balanced, and structured extended answers that demonstrate their depth and breadth of subject knowledge. Students reflect on their own values, views, and attitudes in light of what they have studied, which will help them prepare for adulthood in an inclusive society. They understand the impact of religion on individuals, groups, and cultures, as well as the significant parallels and contrasts among religious traditions.