

# 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 socio economic 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 form their own ideas, values, and opinions while simultaneously encouraging open-mindedness and respect for the beliefs and perspectives of others. We believe that these abilities are critical for their spiritual development and social integration in a varied and ever-changing environment. Our students' acquired skills will enable them to prepare for their futures with confidence, tolerance, and acceptance of all faiths, or none.

Key Stage 2 knowledge, abilities, and understanding will be successfully expanded, ensuring coherence and continuity throughout the key stages. Throughout our curriculum, we will use real-world examples and events to help students understand and connect our topics, allowing them to reflect on the past, assess the present, and sustain the future.. Finally, we want to provide students with the resources and skills they need to play an active, informed, and responsible part in their communities.

Diverse assessments that provide clear information will guide planning and ensure solid progress. Importantly, the assessments will examine existing knowledge and comprehension, ensuring that future knowledge and understanding is built on solid foundation. We will continue to evaluate and adapt the Religious Studies curriculum to ensure that it is cohesive, of high quality, and provides 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 Non-Religious worldviews 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 embedded within our curriculum offering. Furthermore, students will develop cross-curricular learning skills with other subjects particularly History, ICT, Science and Art 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 Edexcel B specification. Our KS4 programme develops the learning from KS3 in more depth and breadth and specifications have been carefully 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. Our student's 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 students 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 will be in 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.