

Bishop Young C of E Academy **Policies & Procedures**

Religious Education Policy

Approved on	29 th April 2026.
Approved by	Local Governing Board
Next review due	30 th April 2029

Religious Education Policy

Bishop Young Academy is a safe and welcoming family, where all God's children are valued and all are enabled to flourish. We rejoice in the diversity of the many individuals who make up our community, as we learn to live well together and to serve one another in love.

At Bishop Young Church of England Academy our vision is at the heart of all that we do. Students' learning in Religious Education (RE) is crucial in terms of reinforcing our ethos and connecting with other aspects of academy life like Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE), our BISHOP Character Education, Collective Worship and Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural (SMSC). All students progress to study RE at GCSE examination level. Bishop Young Church of England Academy is within the Leeds diocese and follows the Agreed Syllabus in years 7, 8 & 9, and in years 10-11 students follow the AQA GCSE specification.

This policy has been written taking into account the latest Statement for Entitlement guidance (2019), the SIAMS Evaluation Schedule (2023), and the Diocesan Syllabus for Religious Education (2024).

At Bishop Young CE Academy, students and their families can expect a high-quality religious education (RE) curriculum that is rich and varied, enabling learners to acquire a thorough knowledge and understanding of a range of faiths and world views.

Students will:

- gain a secure knowledge and understanding of Christianity as experienced and expressed through the life and teachings of the Church of England
- learn about the key beliefs and practices of the world's religions
- learn about non-religious worldviews
- learn to respect people of different faiths and none, by promoting sensitivity, empathy and open-mindedness
- reflect on their own perspectives and develop their personal spirituality in a respectful and inclusive environment
- develop their own beliefs, values and self-esteem by reflecting on religious and moral beliefs, practices and lifestyles that they learn about
- develop a range of skills including reflection, analysis, communication, and critical awareness, as well as a love of learning.

Students Achievement

- Students will make progress which is at least in line with that made in other core subjects at Bishop Young Academy
- The RE Subject Leader will monitor and track student progress
- Interventions will enable 'gaps' to be narrowed

Teaching

We recognise the importance of teaching RE in a creative, knowledge-rich, broad, and balanced way. Learning activities provide fully for the needs of all students, so that they develop a wide range of skills including enquiry, analysis, interpretation, evaluation, and reflection. They provide opportunities to engage in meaningful and informed dialogue with those of all religions and worldviews.

RE lessons provide a safe space to explore their own religious, spiritual and/or philosophical ways of seeing, living and thinking, believing and belonging. In addition:

- Teachers will receive in-house coaching and CPD to enable the delivery of high quality RE teaching as well as external CPD where necessary
- The Subject Leader will attend LLP Subject Leader meetings to share good practice across the city
- Lessons will be observed each half term to ensure teaching is high quality
- High quality resources will be available for all teachers
- RE will contribute to the distinctly Christian values and vision of the academy
- RE will address both learning about and learning from religions
- All students will know their own targets for the subject and the RE skills required to succeed

Teaching in RE challenges stereotypes, misinformation and misconceptions about race, gender, and religion. The teaching of British values is embedded across the curriculum. Lessons seek to present religions and world views in all their richness and diversity in terms of beliefs, traditions, customs and lifestyle in a sensitive and accurate way to encourage a positive attitude towards diversity. Questions, views, and opinions are treated with sensitivity and respect.

Teaching enables students to gain something of personal value from their study of religious belief and practice, for example, the way that they might apply insights gained from religious stories to their own lives, supporting them in reflecting on meaning and purpose and developing their own spirituality.

The Curriculum

- In years 7, 8, and 9, the academy will follow the Leeds Diocese Agreed Syllabus with an emphasis on understanding Christianity
- In years 10-11 all students will study AQA GCSE RE and all students will be entered for a GCSE examination
- RE will contribute to our BISHOP Character lessons

Leadership And Management

The subject leader will:

- Ensure that all students receive their legal entitlement of religious education
- Ensure RE provision reflects the Church of England Statement of Entitlement
- Produce and regularly review a subject policy to ensure that it remains up to date
- Ensure all teachers know what should be taught in religious education, what resources are available, and what standards of attainment are expected at the end of each Key Stage
- Monitor and review the implementation of policy and the curriculum
- Monitor the quality and effectiveness of teaching and learning in RE and students' progress and standards
- Ensure there are rigorous assessment systems in place to enable teachers and students to gauge progress and attainment in RE
- Monitor, analyse and question RE assessments carried out by staff
- Liaise with the Head of School and Governors to feedback on the monitoring and impact of RE across the school
- Support colleagues by sharing new ideas and pedagogy, to help develop their subject confidence and expertise through CPD opportunities and support sessions
- Seek opportunities to share effective practice locally and regionally and engage in professional development for themselves and other staff members
- Oversee the RE budget and monitor RE resources to ensure they are kept and stored respectfully and replaced where necessary
- Ensure there is a school protocol, that covers safeguarding procedures and a suitability process, for when visitors are invited into RE lessons

The Contribution of Religious Education to the Broader Life of the Academy

- The RE teaching staff will uphold the academy's Christian vision and promote whole school activities, including key religious festivals and fundraising

- RE will make a major contribution to the whole school SMSC core entitlement through the curriculum and enrichment
- RE will interleave with the academy's BISHOP character

Local, National and International Links

- RE will be supported by the diocese advisory team including attendance/contribution to network meetings and training events
- RE will seek to make meaningful links with local primary schools through joint projects, worship and enrichment opportunities
- RE will seek to make links with other secondary providers, in particular other Church of England schools and academies
- RE will forge links with local churches and faith communities especially Seacroft Parish

Legal Requirements and withdrawal from Religious Education

Religious Education must be provided for all registered students in full time education except those withdrawn at their parents' request (or their own request if aged 18 or over).

Bishop Young Church of England Academy is fully inclusive and expects all students to study RE. We aim to provide an open curriculum which can be taught to all students, by all staff. However, parents/carers have the legal right to withdraw their child from RE on grounds of conscience. We ask that any parent/carer considering this to contact the Head of School to discuss any concerns or anxieties about the policy, provision and practice of RE at Bishop Young Church of England Academy.