

RE makes an important contribution to the education of all students growing up in a contemporary British society. It seeks to;

- a. Promote the spiritual, moral, mental and physical development of students at the school and of society.
- b. Prepare students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

THE AIM OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The purpose or aim of teaching religious education is to give children and young people opportunities to:

- a. Develop their knowledge and understanding of the nature of religious beliefs and practices and the importance of these in the lives of believers.
- b. Explore those aspects of human experiences, which give rise to spiritual awareness and fundamental issues about beliefs and values.

THE ROLE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

It is not the responsibility of the school to promote any particular religious standpoint. Religious education should not seek to indoctrinate or to persuade students to take up any one particular belief. The emphasis will be upon the development of skills, attitudes and concepts which enable them to recognise the particular importance which a belief has for the individual or group, and reflect on its significance or otherwise for their own developing belief and values. The curriculum also aims to promote respect, understanding and tolerance for those who adhere to different faiths.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE lessons and/or collective worship in whole or in part. If you choose to withdraw your child from RE you are asked to inform the school in writing.

CURRICULUM ORGANISATION AND CONTENT

The RE curriculum is delivered according to the requirements of the Brighton and Hove Agreed syllabus. The 1988 Education Reform Act states that RE syllabuses must'Reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of other principal religions represented in the country.'

All students in Years 7 – 10 at Blatchington Mill School are taught at least one lesson of RE per fortnight. Students at KS4 follow a Short Course GCSE in RE and an A level course in Philosophy and Ethics runs in the sixth form. More recently an AS course has been run for a number of students in Years 10 and 11.

The main topics dealt with are:

- The beliefs, practices and traditions of Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, Sikhism and Buddhism.
- Beliefs about the origins of the universe.
- Beliefs about the existence of God.
- Religious attitudes to moral issues such as racism, sexism, abortion, euthanasia, marriage and the family.

The following concepts underpin the subjects taught within the RE curriculum:

value and worth, celebration, ritual, community, worship and meditation, belief/commitment, authority, symbolism, the ultimate.

The following are the key skills and attitudes, which RE seeks to develop:

Observation	Application
Enquiry	Interest
Classification	Sensitivity
Communication	Openness
Reflection	Empathy
Evaluation	

The RE curriculum is delivered through a variety of teaching and learning strategies.

CONTACT IN SCHOOL

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