



Ark All Saints Academy Religious Education Policy

1 INTRODUCTION

ARK ALL SAINTS ACADEMY is an academy with the highest expectations of its scholars, staff and parents. Our vision is for all members of our All Saints family to be confident, responsible, and successful and to live with integrity. This will enable our scholars to be well prepared for the next phase of their journey whether that is to university or in pursuing the career of their choice.

We welcome scholars of all faiths and none to our Church of England academy where our guiding principles are based on Christian values.

We treat every scholar as an individual and we work with them and their families to develop and nurture their talents.

2 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The purpose of religious education at Ark All Saints Academy is to ensure our scholars:

- learn about and learn from religious, moral and spiritual insights, beliefs and practices within an Anglican, Christian ethos.
- develop and extend their knowledge, understanding and awareness of life philosophies and belief systems including the six major faiths
- develop a positive self-image in harmony with scholars' own belief systems whilst respecting the rights of other people to hold beliefs different from their own
- develop a spiritual awareness and contribute to their search for meaning and understanding in their lives.
- develop an understanding of the universal values of the Christian faith. We will work towards these aims across the curriculum, in our assembly and academic tutor time and through our close links with the Diocese of Southwark.

3 PRACTICE AND GUIDANCE

The Religious Education Policy at AASA is based on the principle of respect rooted in the universal values of Christianity.

3.1 The Statutory Framework

- The Religious Education syllabus is agreed with the SDBE

- We ensure a comprehensive and rigorous study of the major religious traditions and belief systems. This study is integrated to help our scholars grapple with the questions that religion and belief systems raise. Christianity is a major, but not sole, focus.
- At all times, the principle of Equality of Opportunity entails that scholars should be able to learn from and about religious traditions that may not be represented in the school or local community.
- Our Programmes of Study reflect the fact that the religious tradition of Ark All Saints Academy is Christian. Therefore more material is drawn from Christianity than from other faiths.
- Information about the broad aims and content of Religious Education and about parental rights to withdraw their children from RE are included in the school information booklet.

3.2 Delivery of Religious Education

- Religious Education is taught in ability groups throughout the school.
- Scholars at Key Stage 3 study RE for one lesson each week.

3.3 Exploring Spirituality

We present opportunities for scholars to explore their own beliefs, experiences and feelings. These opportunities include:

- Discussing of matters of personal concern
- Recognising the importance of belief, feelings and emotions
- Developing a sense of belonging to a community
- Experiencing moral dilemmas
- Exploring commitment
- Exploring mystery

3.4 Developing Attitudes

- We do not seek, and are not permitted to *nurture* scholars in a particular faith, merely offer Christianity as a potential answer.
- We are concerned with developing scholar's knowledge and understanding of, and respect and tolerance towards, religious beliefs as well as Humanism.

3.4.1 Particular attitudes developed include:

- ✓ Acceptance of the equality of human beings and their right to religious belief and expression
- ✓ Openness to religious belief and practice as an important part of human experience
- ✓ Integrity in approaching beliefs and values different to one's own
- ✓ Respect for what is sacred or special to others
- ✓ Sensitivity to the feelings of others about their beliefs, values and lifestyles
- ✓ A respect & understanding of the universal values of Christianity e.g. love, peace, unity, and sensitivity.

3.5 Religious Education and the Multi-Cultural Society

Religious Education at Ark All Saints has a role both in preparing scholars for full participation in a pluralistic society and also in developing anti-racism. We aim to achieve this by:

- Challenging stereotypes.
- Allowing scholars to positively encounter and celebrate the variety of belief systems and life stances.
- Emphasising that all religious traditions have teaching which seek to promote tolerance and to reconcile conflict.

3.6 Right to Withdraw

Parents have the statutory right under Section 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 to withdraw their children from RE lessons. Parents are not obliged to give a reason for requesting withdrawal.

If you would like to withdraw your child from RE lessons, we would request that you first arrange a meeting with your child's RE teacher and a member of SLT to discuss your concerns.

POLICY INFORMATION

Named personnel with designated responsibility for Religious Education Policy

Academic year	Designated Senior person	Deputy Designated Senior person	Nominated Governor	Chair of Governors
2013-2014	Lucy Frame			Peter Martin

Policy review dates (frequency of review: every year)

Review Date	Changes made	By whom
July 2013	Policy created	Lucy Frame
July 2015	Reviewed – 3.6 added	Lucy Frame

Ratification by Governing Body

Academic year	Date of ratification	Chair of Governors
2013-2014	July 2013	Peter Martin

Dates of staff training for this academic year

Dates	Course Title	Staff