

# Leek High School



## Religious Education and Collective Worship Policy

### Statement of Intent

Leek High School believes that RE both supports and strengthens what we do in all aspects of the curriculum.

Our ethos and the development we place on the development of the whole child; spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in the wider PSHE curriculum.

Religious Education at Leek High School is taught in line with Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) guidance. Students are taught to respect each other and contribute to the school and the wider community.

All students receive teaching of RE in tutor groups during RISE and as part of the PSHCE programme.

### Aims and objectives

- Our PSHE and wider curriculum aims to develop students' knowledge and understanding of, and their ability to respect the values of Christianity and the other principle religions represented in Great Britain.
- Our curriculum supports students to:
  - Explore issues in and between faiths to help students to understand and respect different religions, beliefs, values and traditions (including ethical life stances) and to understand the influence of those on individuals, communities, societies and cultures.
  - Consider questions of meaning and purpose in life.
  - Learn about religious and ethical teaching, enabling them to make reasoned and informed judgments on religious and moral issues.
  - Enhance student's spiritual, moral, cultural and social development.
  - Develop student's sense of identity and belonging, preparing them for life as citizens in a plural society.
  - Develop enquiry skills through the distinctive use of language, listening and empathy.
  - Discuss how life choices are affected by religious belief of system and practices
  - Reflect on, analyse and evaluate student's beliefs, values and practices and communicate their responses.

We do this by:

- Providing an engaging and creative PSHE programme which is accessible to all students where all students can achieve their potential.
- Providing a collective act of worship daily through the school's assembly programme.
- Fostering an interest in faith and religion in students.
- Providing students with a view of faith and religion as an academic discipline and allow them to question beliefs.
- Providing an environment where students feel that they can air their views appropriately without ridicule or embarrassment.

This policy is written and updated through reference to statutory requirements and in conjunction with school policies on Equal Opportunities, Disability and PSHE.

Statutory requirements for students regarding the school curriculum state that the syllabus 'must not be designed to convert pupils, or to urge a particular religion or religious belief on pupils' and Leek High School reflects this in its work by:

- Curriculum planning and teaching which is not of any specific 'religious character' and which recognises the multi-faith context of the school's students and community
- Collective worship is a statutory requirement for all students and whilst the school meets this requirement, there are no formal links to RE.

### **Withdrawal from RE**

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw pupils from statutory RE which is covered within the school's PSHE curriculum (along with social, moral and cultural education). It should be noted that students do not have the right to withdraw themselves from the subject, and other teachers do not have the right to withdraw pupils from the subject.

If a parent/carer wishes to withdraw their child from RE within PSHE it should be put in writing to the Headteacher. In all circumstances when the Headteacher receives a letter of withdrawal from a parent/carer, contact with the student's tutor/mentor will be made to discuss the request.

Parents/carers will be contacted by the tutor/mentor to discuss their concerns about their child studying RE as part of PSHE to prompt further consideration as to the benefits of studying the subject.

If parents/carers wish to go ahead with a decision to withdraw their child, then alternative arrangements will be made for the young person to leave the lesson(s) when RE objectives are being taught.

### **Collective worship**

At Leek High School collective worship is delivered through RISE (Reading Intervention Support and Extension) sessions or assembly. Collective worship contributes to the school's identity and general ethos. Speakers from local faith and community groups are embedded into planning to provide links with the local and wider community. All aspects of PSHE, including collective worship are led and managed by pastoral and senior leaders together with form tutors. The school plans for a shared and involved experience of all students.

The daily act of collective worship will provide students with an opportunity to:

- Strengthen the bond between all members of the school community;
- Build positive attitudes and ways of acting;
- Reflect upon how they would respond to a range of spiritual and moral issues that are presented to them;
- Provide quiet, reflective time for thought or prayer.

Collective worship at Leek High School places great importance on the PSHE and Citizenship curriculum which this policy should be read in conjunction with.

Signed by:

\_\_\_\_\_ Headteacher                      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair of governors                      Date: \_\_\_\_\_