



## Religious Education

Religious Education (RE) is a compulsory part of the Northern Ireland curriculum, although parents have the right to withdraw their child from part or all of RE or collective worship.

The programmes of study follow the guidelines set out in the Northern Ireland Curriculum. Religious Education includes Christianity, Morality and two world religions; namely Judaism and Islam.

### Religious Education addresses all pupils irrespective of their faith background by:

- Helping them to appreciate that life has religious, spiritual and moral dimensions
- Helping them to understand how believers see their faith as a perspective on the whole of life and thought
- Allowing them opportunities for questioning and searching
- Challenging them to reflect on their own life stances as they identify the values and attitudes that influence them
- Encouraging them to respect the beliefs, values and attitudes of others.



*Photographs show Peter Hinton from Leprosy Mission NI visiting some classes in the Religious Education department. The pupils are holding medicines and gadgets used to help treat Leprosy.*



## **Key Stage 3**

All pupils in Key stage 3 follow a planned programme.

### **The four main areas are:**

#### ***Learning Objective 1: The Revelation of God***

- God and the Bible
- God's relationship with his chosen people

#### ***Learning Objective 2: The Christian Church***

- The Early Church

#### ***Learning Objective 3: Morality***

- Choices to be made in our society today

#### ***Learning Objective 4: World Religions***

- Christianity, Judaism, Islam

Within these topics, the pupils are given the following opportunities:

- To show a deeper understanding by thinking critically and flexibly, solving problems and making informed decisions.
- To demonstrate creativity and initiative when developing ideas and following them through;
- To work effectively with others;
- To demonstrate self-management by working systematically, persisting with tasks, evaluating and improving own performance;

Religious Education can transform pupils' assessments of themselves, and their understanding of the world in which we live. It creates an atmosphere in which challenging questions can be raised and discussed openly, and it gives the pupils a chance to consider difficult ideas and issues, discovering their own sense of values through this process.



## **Key Stage 4**

GCSE Religious Studies is an academic qualification that builds on the Key Stage 3 Curriculum and provides a foundation for pupils intending to study Religious Studies at a higher level.

### **Through studying GCSE Religious Studies**

- Students will be able to reflect on and develop their own values, beliefs and attitudes in light of what they have learnt.
- Pupils of all abilities will be challenged and inspired, whilst developing valuable skills sought after by higher education and employers.

### **Within GCSE Religious Studies**

- There is no controlled assessment; the assessment comprises 100% external written papers. (two – 1.5 hour papers)
- The topics are accessible to candidates of any religious persuasion or none.

### **What will I study?**

- Pupils will study two units
- Pupils will take one assessment unit at the end of one year of study, and the other assessment unit at the end of the second year of study.

### **Unit 1: - An introduction to Christian Ethics; including:**

- Personal and Family Issues
- Matters of Life and Death
- Care for the Environment
- Equality
- War and Peace

### **Unit 2: Christianity through a study of the gospel of Matthew; including:**

- The identity of Jesus
- Jesus the Miracle Worker
- The Kingdom of God
- The death and Resurrection of Jesus
- The Place and Nature of Christian Discipleship