

**“Whether one believes in a religion or not, and whether one believes in rebirth or not, there isn’t anyone who doesn’t appreciate kindness and compassion.”**

Dalai Lama

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES

## SUBJECT OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE

### WHY IS RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IMPORTANT?

The purpose of religious education at Excel Learning Trust is to enable each child and young person to gain knowledge and understanding of Christianity, Islam and other principal religions and non-religious worldviews.

We aim to prepare our children for life in a diverse world where tolerance and cohesion within multicultural communities is key. Children will be able to make reasoned and informed judgments about religious, social, moral and environmental issues in our modern world.

Religion provokes challenging questions about meaning and purpose in life, beliefs about God, ultimate reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human. When tackling

these challenging questions, religious education provides children with an insight that can work to challenge stereotypes, promote cohesion and tackle extremism.

Religious Education develops a sense of wellbeing, ethical standards and appreciation of the natural world.

### OUR AIMS

We aim to provide an engaging and thoughtful approach to religious education, demonstrating the variety of knowledge and understanding needed to be respectful citizens.

Pupils explore all aspects of religious education, which involves learning about different religions, beliefs, values and traditions, while also exploring personal beliefs.

Pupils are encouraged to investigate aspects

of different faiths and principal religions. We encourage pupils to:

- Know about and understand a range of religions and non-religious world wide views.
- Express ideas and insights about the nature, significance and impact of religions and non-religious worldviews.
- Gain and deploy the skills needed to engage seriously, think critically and apply the information they have learnt with religions and non religious worldviews.
- Develop tolerance and respect for others, including people with different faiths and beliefs, and help to challenge prejudice.
- Articulate beliefs, values, commitments and opinions to explain why they may be important in their own and other people’s lives.

- Challenge stereotypical views and to appreciate differences positively.
- Engage pupils in systematic enquiry into significant human questions which religion and non-religious worldviews address.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND BEYOND

An understanding of different faiths and religions can equip pupils for a number of fulfilling careers including:

- Youth Worker
- Community Development Worker
- Counsellor
- Teacher
- Charity Worker
- Wedding Planner
- Journalist
- Equality, inclusion and diversity officer
- Mediator
- Chaplain

## CHRISTIANITY PROGRESSION

| NURSERY                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | RECEPTION                                                                                                                                                                                               | KEY STAGE 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | LOWER KEY STAGE 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | UPPER KEY STAGE 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Know what makes a good friend.</li> <li>■ Know what makes someone special.</li> <li>■ Know how Jesus was a good friend to others.</li> <li>■ Know which stories are special and why.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Know what happens at Christmas, and why.</li> <li>■ Know where Christian worship takes place.</li> <li>■ Know who is special to Christians and why.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Know what Christians believe about God.</li> <li>■ Know what the Bible teaches Christians about God.</li> <li>■ Know why Jesus is important to Christians.</li> <li>■ Know why Christians pray.</li> <li>■ Know what happened at Easter and how it makes Christians feel.</li> <li>■ Know what stories are special to Christians.</li> <li>■ Know about the story Christians tell about the creation of the world.</li> <li>■ We have spoiled 'God's good earth'. Know what this idea might mean to Christians.</li> <li>■ Know which special items and objects are sacred within a Christian place of worship and how they are used to support believers.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Know how Christians show their beliefs at church and in the home.</li> <li>■ Know why and how different Christians celebrate holy communion.</li> <li>■ Know how Christians make a difference in their local community.</li> <li>■ Know how Christians celebrate Easter.</li> <li>■ Know about Jesus' life story.</li> <li>■ Know how Jesus is inspiring because of his actions and teaching.</li> <li>■ Know why Jesus is still important today.</li> <li>■ Know what important messages are in the Ten Commandments.</li> <li>■ Know what Christianity says about how to live a good life.</li> <li>■ Know about how people decide what is right and wrong without God's help.</li> <li>■ Know how stories from the Bible are used to teach lessons.</li> <li>■ Know how Christians use the Bible and why it is important to them.</li> <li>■ Know how and why Christians like to pray.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Why do Christians believe that God exists?</li> <li>■ Know that a Christian place of worship can be a building for the 'glory of God'.</li> <li>■ Know how Jesus taught his followers to love.</li> <li>■ Know what Jesus taught about being generous and being greedy.</li> <li>■ Know what Jesus' parables teach about forgiveness and Christians today.</li> <li>■ Know what the teaching of Jesus has to say about some problems people face today. What would Jesus do?</li> <li>■ If God is everywhere, why go to a place of worship?</li> </ul> |

## ISLAM PROGRESSION

| NURSERY + RECEPTION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | KEY STAGE 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | LOWER KEY STAGE 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | UPPER KEY STAGE 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Listen to some stories from Muslim tradition.</li> <li>■ Know the name given to a follower of the Islamic faith.</li> <li>■ Name the sacred place for Muslim worship.</li> <li>■ Begin to build an awareness of some special artifacts for Muslims.</li> <li>■ Name a special celebration for Muslims.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Know who the Prophet Muhammad is, and why is he important to Muslims.</li> <li>■ Know what is a mosque, and what happens at a mosque.</li> <li>■ Identify some ways in which Muslim festivals are celebrated.</li> <li>■ Know some stories that are special to Muslims.</li> <li>■ Know which places of worship are sacred for Muslims.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Know the key beliefs of an Islamic follower.</li> <li>■ Know why prayer matters to Muslims.</li> <li>■ Know why Muslims want to go on pilgrimage.</li> <li>■ Know what happens in Islamic prayer.</li> <li>■ Know about simple Muslim beliefs about God.</li> <li>■ What does it mean to be a Muslim in Britain today?</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Know what Muslims believe about Allah.</li> <li>■ Know how Islamic buildings express Islamic beliefs and values.</li> <li>■ Suggest some reasons why Islamic believers see charity and generosity as being more important than buildings and art.</li> <li>■ To Know what a Mosque means to a Muslim.</li> <li>■ Comment thoughtfully on the purpose and value of religious practises and rituals in a Muslim's daily life.</li> <li>■ What are the Islamic connections between anti-racism and religion?</li> </ul> |

**In addition to Christianity and Islam, pupils will also learn the following information about Hinduism, Humanism, Judaism:**

■ Sacred Places ■ Sacred Texts ■ Behaviors and traditions ■ Key beliefs ■ Celebrations and festivals ■ Key Stories ■ Living in the modern world ■ Influential Figures