

Statement of Policy on

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

[Agreed at Governors' Curriculum Committee meeting held in February 2000 and 3rd March 2009]

1. Statement of Aims

- 1.1 This policy is based on the contribution that RE makes to the spiritual, moral, social, cultural **and academic** development of students. The Education Reform Act 1988/96 defines Christianity as the principal religion in the United Kingdom and states that approximately 60% of time allocated to RE should be spent on Christianity.
- 1.2 RE will be taught as a rigorous academic subject with the following aims:
 - 1.2.1 to enable students to grow in knowledge of, understanding towards and respect for the experiences and practices of their peers and of the principal religions represented in the United Kingdom
 - 1.2.2 to help students to develop their spiritual, moral, cultural and social selves by growing more aware of the fundamental questions of life raised by human experiences and by responding to these questions in the light of reflection on their own experiences and the practices and teachings of religions
 - 1.2.3 to assist students in their development into young adults and informed members of their community by extending their world view to include understanding of the ideas and beliefs of others, and by giving students the space to develop as people, to increase their self-knowledge, to reflect on their value systems and to develop their capacity for personal, social and moral decision-making.
 - 1.2.4 to help students to develop their thinking skills of exploration, investigation, self-awareness, open-mindedness, interpretation, reflection, empathy, evaluation, analysis, synthesis, application and expression
 - 1.2.5 to provide opportunities for contributions to: Personal, Social and Health Education; Citizenship; Inclusion; Every Child Matters; development of financial capability; creativity and culture; education for racial equality and community cohesion; understanding of scientific, medical and health issues; links to employment, vocations and work-related learning; education for sustainable development; development of key skills.
- 1.3 All students will follow courses in RE in accordance with the agreed syllabus for Cambridgeshire.
- 1.4 Parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE. Applications for withdrawal from RE lessons must be made directly to the Principal in writing.