

St Luke’s and Religious Education

St Luke’s School provides Religious Education for all students registered at the school. Religious Education is part of the basic curriculum but not part of the National Curriculum because it is taught in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus introduced in 2011. Religious Education has the same status and importance as any other subject and the same high standards are applied to Religious Education as to all other subjects. We teach Religious Education with reference to the locally agreed syllabus. We aim through our delivery of RE not to attempt to alter a child's own beliefs but to provide a knowledge of their own and other's beliefs.

Parents can withdraw their child from RE for personal reasons by submitting their request in writing to the head teacher, although it is hoped that all parents feel comfortable with the type of Religious Education being taught at our school.

 Religious Education (RE) provides sensory, practical and active learning experiences which make it accessible to all students. RE encourages and supports students to explore and participate in experiences relating to the major faiths as well as offering opportunities for students to learn about their place in an ever changing society.

In particular, RE offers students with learning difficulties opportunities to:

* develop an insight into self-esteem, self-concept and body awareness in relation to their position in the world.
* consider the needs and preferences of others, as well as themselves, so helping to develop their social awareness.
* promote awareness and understanding of the world we live in
* communicate using a range of methods avoiding over-reliance on the written word.
* Introduce similarities and differences within different faith groups including the cultural, ethnic and religious elements.
* develop their ability to collaborate with others and to form an understanding and tolerance of other people’s points of view.
* develop the student’s awareness of the importance of a religious dimension to life for individuals and groups through visits to local places of worship as well as visits by members of different faith groups.
* provide opportunities to explore the beauty of the natural world and promote experiences and concepts of awe and wonder.
* consider the effect of man on our environment and develop a sense of stewardship of our world.
* gain knowledge of key religious figures from Christianity and other major religions.
* Develop a respect for religious artefacts, symbolism and ideals.
* Learn about the origin, practices and importance of major festivals different religions.

How we teach RE is under review and we are hoping to offer 6 RE days across the year which will be in line with our immersive practices we have established. We believe that this will provide all the children of St Luke’s with a better understanding and respect for other religions. The days will include visitors from other faiths and religious, foods and celebrations associated with different cultures and our assemblies will serve to demonstrate the teachings of the focussed religion/culture on the day. The new approach will commence in the summer term 2015.