

## RELIGIOUS STUDIES AT THE OPEN ACADEMY

### Our school vision **“Courage in every step, faith in every journey”**

Our vision for Religious Studies at the Open Academy is to engage, inspire and challenge pupils by providing them with the knowledge and skills to answer questions that they have about religion, life and the community within which they live. We provide a high-quality Religious Studies curriculum which supports pupil’s religious literacy. In the context of Open Academy, being religiously literate means that pupils will have the ability to hold balanced and well-informed conversations about religion and worldviews with those around them. We encourage pupils to foster empathy, compassion, and understanding of different cultures and beliefs to prepare them for a diverse society within a changing world.

RESPECT	ASPIRATION	PERSEVERANCE
<p>By fully engaging in the Religious Studies curriculum at the Open Academy our pupils are taught how to respect others, this fosters empathy, challenges stereotypes, and encourages dialogue about diverse beliefs. Pupils analyse different worldviews, engage with ethical dilemmas, and reflect on their own views, which builds understanding and appreciation for the beliefs of others. Pupils develop skills to express their own views while listening respectfully to others, fostering an environment of mutual respect and tolerance. Lessons provide safe spaces for dialogue creating a safe, respectful environment allowing pupils to discuss controversial and sensitive issues which enables an inclusive atmosphere for everyone.</p>	<p>Whilst studying Religious Studies our pupils are able to develop their critical thinking skills, empathy, and a nuanced understanding of a complex, diverse world, which prepares them for active citizenship and various careers within the wider world. Religious Studies enables pupils to explore ethical, philosophical, and social issues, encouraging them to consider their own beliefs and purpose in the world today. It encourages young people to grapple with profound questions about life, meaning, and right and wrong, challenging them to think deeply and articulate their own perspectives</p>	<p>Pupils can foster perseverance by cultivating critical thinking, emotional resilience, and moral character. Through analysing complex ethical dilemmas, exploring diverse, challenging perspectives, and examining narratives of endurance within religious traditions, pupils develop the mental fortitude required to navigate personal and academic challenges, building both empathy and resilience. Pupils analyse how faith communities maintain hope and determination during crises, which helps them apply similar, principled perseverance to their own lives and ethical challenges.</p>
SPIRITUALITY	GLOBAL CITIZENS	AWE AND WONDER
<p>Religious Studies fosters spiritual awareness by encouraging pupils to explore profound questions about meaning, purpose, and existence, enabling them to reflect on their own beliefs while respecting diverse worldviews. It promotes empathy, ethical thinking, and a deeper understanding of non-material aspects of life, aiding personal development in a complex world. Pupils interrogate fundamental questions about life, death, suffering, and ultimate reality, which challenges their thinking and encourages reflection on their own spiritual journey.</p>	<p>Studying religious studies enables pupils to be global citizens by fostering deep understanding of diverse cultures, worldviews, and belief systems. It develops critical thinking, empathy, and the ability to engage with complex, interconnected issues, fostering respect and preventing prejudice in a pluralistic society. Pupils learn to understand the lived experiences, values, and traditions of people across the globe, fostering empathy and reducing prejudice.</p>	<p>Religious Studies fosters awe and wonder by encouraging students to explore deep existential questions, diverse worldviews, and profound human experiences. It moves beyond facts to appreciate the mystery and complexity of life, inspiring reflection on beauty, purpose, and the "stubborn there-ness" of existence in a modern world. Pupils are encouraged to explore profound questions about life, purpose, and the unknown, nurturing a sense of wonder about existence</p>