Key Stage 4

Introduction

Programme of Study

What schools should do

Key Stage 4 Religious Education

Introduction

During Key Stage 4, all students should extend and deepen their knowledge and understanding of religions and other worldviews, reflecting personal, local, national and global contexts. Building on prior learning, they should interpret and analyse the expressions of beliefs that they encounter.

Students should be able to research and investigate the influence and impact of religions and beliefs on the values and lives of both individuals and groups, evaluating their impact on current affairs. They should be able to appreciate, compare and appraise the beliefs and practices of different religions and other worldviews, articulating well-reasoned positions.

Students should be able to use theological, philosophical and sociological approaches, including the analysis of texts. As an integral part of learning, students should be given the opportunity to engage with people and communities of faith within school or through visits outside school.

Programme of Study

At Key Stage 4 all pupils should fulfil their entitlement by following an accredited specification (rom a recognised examination board) in Religious Studies to fulfil the requirement of the Agreed Syllabus. Schools should provide reasonable time for pupils to complete this and if appropriate, to attain a recognised qualification, such as a full or short course Religious Studies GCSE or special schools may wish to provide an Asdan Course in, for example, beliefs and values.

While there is no legal requirement that students must sit public examinations, students deserve the opportunity to have their learning in the statutory curriculum subject of religious education accredited. The decision therefore to enter pupils for an examination at the end of the course is at the schools' discretion.

What schools should do

Schools should provide religious education to every student in accordance with legal requirements. Religious education must be taught according to the locally agreed syllabus, which, in this case, specifies an accredited course as the programme of study at Key Stage 4.