

Religious Studies Policy

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- 1.1 Footsteps is an alternative provision for pupils aged 13 to 16 years. We deliver Religious Studies (RS) in line with the Locally Agreed Syllabus. Footsteps recognises the education value of Religious Studies in the school curriculum which is available for all students. Religious studies are offered at GCSE in KS3 and KS4. Footsteps also recognises the excellent contribution RS makes to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development across the school. Footsteps serves a multiple faith local community.
 - i. Promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, and physical development of pupils; and,
 - ii. Prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities, and experiences of later life.
- 1.2 Footsteps recognises that RS 'must reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain' (Education Act (1996 Section 375 (3)) Schools Standards and Framework Act (1998, Schedule 19, para 5). The Religious Studies curriculum offered at Footsteps have breadth. We aim to develop students' respect for different faiths and an understanding and awareness of different religions.
- 1.3 Right of withdrawal Parents (or students who are over 18) have the right to withdraw their children either partly or wholly from RS. In addition, teachers have the right not to teach the subject. Our approach to RS, however, has been constructed in the hope that parents and teachers will rarely, if ever, wish to exercise their right of withdrawal.