

**FOOTSTEPS TRUST**



**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY**

## **Footsteps Religious Education Policy**

### **Context**

Footsteps is an independent school operating as an alternative provider of education. Our students' ages range from 13-16 years.

We deliver Religious Education (RE) in line with a DFE compliant syllabus.

Footsteps recognises the educational value of Religious Education in the school curriculum which is available for all pupils. Religious Education is offered at GCSE in KS4.

Footsteps recognises the excellent contribution RE makes to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development across the school.

Footsteps serves a multiple faith local community.

### **Legal requirements**

The National Curriculum stipulates that Footsteps should offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly based, and which:

- promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, and physical development of pupils; and,
- prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities, and experiences of later life

### **Breadth of RE**

Footsteps recognises that RE '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 Education curriculum offered at Footsteps has breadth. We aim to develop pupils' respect for different faiths and an understanding and awareness of different religions.

## **Right of withdrawal**

Parents (or students who are over 18) have the right to withdraw their children either partly or wholly from RE. In addition, teachers have the right not to teach the subject. Our approach to RE, however, has been constructed in the hope that parents and teachers will rarely, if ever, wish to exercise their right of withdrawal.