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*You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on a stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven*

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# Religious Studies Policy

<b>Original Policy Date:</b>	<b>September 2012 (part of SMSC Policy)</b>
<b>Date Adopted:</b>	<b>September 2019</b>
<b>Date of next review:</b>	<b>September 2022</b>
<b>Name of Responsible Person:</b>	<b>Mrs S Barker</b>

The Governors and staff of Lowton Church of England High School are committed to the provision of a high quality education in a Christian context. We aim to provide a school where we can live out our ethos of Caring, Learning and Succeeding on a daily basis. At the heart of the commitment is the notion of the uniqueness and infinite worth of the individual, that every person is valuable in the eyes of God

This policy has been produced in accordance with the Equality Act 2010 and the Special Education Needs Disability Act 2001, the SEND Code of Practice 2014 and the Children and Families Act 2014. It has been reviewed in accordance with all other school policies and related Acts.

<b>Signed:</b>		<b>Acting Headteacher</b>
<b>Date of signature:</b>	<b>September 2019.</b>	

*Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.* †

As a Church school everything we do is based on Christian values and is summed up in our mission statement, **caring, learning and succeeding**. The Governors and staff of Lowton Church of England High School are committed to the provision of a high-quality education in a Christian context. We aim to provide a school where we can live out our ethos of **Caring, Learning and Succeeding on a daily basis and let our light shine**. At the heart of the commitment is the notion of the uniqueness and infinite worth of the individual, that every person is valuable in the eyes of God and that they are, indeed, the *light of the world*.

### **Religious Studies at Lowton Church of England High School:**

Religious Studies at Lowton Church of England High School reflects our school's Christian distinctiveness. Religious Studies is central to our Christian values and aims to embody our mission statement enabling students to **let their light shine**.

Religious Studies at Lowton Church of England High School helps to prepare students for living in modern day Britain. We are a global community and it is important that we understand different backgrounds, traditions and religious beliefs from across the world. Religious Studies helps overcome prejudices and negative stereotypes; it promotes tolerance, understanding and celebrates our diverse community.

We aim to provide students with a mature understanding of the Christian faith and Christian values alongside promoting understanding and tolerance for people of other faiths.

### **Purpose:**

Religious Studies at Lowton Church of England High School aims to give students opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding of religious beliefs and practises and contribute to the development of their own beliefs and values. Religious Studies aims to promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our students ensuring that students fully recognise that they are the *light of the world*.

Religious Studies provokes challenging questions about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God, the self and the nature of reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human. It develops students' knowledge and understanding of Christianity, other principal religions, other religious traditions, and other world views that offer answers to these challenging questions. It offers opportunities for personal reflection and spiritual development. It enhances awareness and understanding of religions and beliefs, teachings, practices and forms of expression, and of the influence of religion on individuals, families, communities and cultures.

Religious Studies at Lowton Church of England High School prepares students for adult living. It is essential that students are able to understand different beliefs, values and traditions of world religions and be able to express their own views clearly and coherently.

**Aims and objectives:**

- To develop a Religious Studies curriculum that supports our commitment and ethos to meeting the needs of each unique individual student that is inclusive of all.
- To learn about the beliefs, teaching and sources of authority in the major religions.
- To learn and interpretate sacred texts.
- To understand religious practices and ways of life and appreciate that individuals and cultures express meaning in different forms.
- To understand that religious beliefs can help develop a sense of identity.
- To explore the concepts of meaning, purpose and truth. Students will learn about different responses to philosophical and ethical issues.
- To support students in becoming informed citizens exploring current issues on a local, national and global scale and enable them to form their own opinions in a supportive environment.
- To nurture students to develop their own theological thinking.

**Implementation:**

Religious Studies is taught by three specialist teachers. It is taught in the following curriculum time – Year 7 and 8 one lesson per week. Year 9 and 10 - 3 lessons per week. Year 11 through the PSHE curriculum.

As a school we follow the Wigan Agreed Syllabus and create our own schemes of work and lessons.

Students study the following:

**Year 7:**

Christianity – who was Jesus?

What does it mean to be a Muslim?

What does it mean to be a Christian?

How do Christians put their faith into action?

What does it mean to be Hindu?

**Year 8:**

What does it mean to be a Sikh?

What do Christians believe God is like?

Why are there good and bad people?

How do people and communities live together?

Why did Jesus have to die?

What does it mean to be Jewish?

## **Key Stage 4 GCSE – Year 9 and 10**

All students study GCSE Religious Studies Specification A (AQA)

Students will sit their GCSE qualification at the end of Year 10.

### **Content:**

Religion (50%) – Christianity (25%) and Judaism (25%)

Thematic Studies (50%) – Religion and Families, Religion and Life Religion, Crime and Punishment, Religion and Human Rights.

Students will complete two examinations at the end of Year 10. Each examination will last one hour and 45 minutes.

<b>Year 9 RS GCSE</b>	<b>Year 10 RS GCSE</b>
Theme F: Human Rights	Jewish Beliefs
Christian Beliefs	Theme B: Life
Christian Practices	Jewish Practices
Theme E: Crime and Punishment	
Christian Church in the world	
Theme A; Relationships and Families	

### **Year 11:**

Students study Religious Studies through the PSHE curriculum. Students are encouraged to examine Christian beliefs on issues affecting them whilst also developing their own spiritual, cultural, moral and social values.

### **Assessment in RS**

We apply the school policy in our planning and teaching in order to ensure that pupils know what they need to do to make progress. Following an assessment and some other pieces of work, pupils will be given dedicated improvement and reflection time as outlined in the marking and assessment policy.

Students will be assessed on the following skills:

- Explaining and analysing
- Interpreting sacred texts
- Comparing and contrasting diverse beliefs and practices
- Evaluating and analysing

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Monitoring and evaluation of the Religious Studies policy and scheme of work is the responsibility of the RS co-ordinator and is conducted and reviewed as part of the monitoring of the RS curriculum. This policy will be reviewed every 3 years as minimum.