

# SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

## POLICY STATEMENT

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN CHURCH SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The Southwark Diocesan Board of Education recognises that in a voluntary Aided Church of England school it is the Governing Body who is responsible for the syllabus for Religious Education. The Headteacher and staff work with and under the direction of the Governing Body. It is the Governing Body's responsibility to ensure that Religious Education is provided for all registered pupils, including those in the Sixth Form, in accordance with the Trust Deed.

While it is not usual for parents who have chosen to send their children to a church school to withdraw them from Religious Education, the school prospectus should contain a statement about the law, so that parents who wish to exercise their rights may do so.

The Southwark Diocesan Board of Education suggests that any policy for Religious Education should contain the following elements:

- ❖ Links to the school Mission Statement
- ❖ Aims for Religious Education\*
- ❖ Links to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural dimensions of education
- ❖ Links with the local Agreed Syllabus and other resource material
- ❖ An overview of the programmes of study
- ❖ Organisation of teaching groups
- ❖ Assessment and record keeping policy
- ❖ Special Education Needs provision/differentiated groups
- ❖ Equal Opportunity links
- ❖ Allocation of curriculum time for Religious Education
- ❖ Examination information: entry policy/short or long course entries/analysis of results
- ❖ Employment of subject specialists
- ❖ Display and marking policies
- ❖ Links to literacy, numeracy and ICT
- ❖ Accommodation

\*Aims for Religious Education in a Church of England school.

Religious Education should help pupils:

- ❖ To acquire and develop knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith
- ❖ To develop the ability to make reasoned and informed responses to religious and moral issues with reference to the teachings of Christianity and the other principal religions represented in Great Britain
- ❖ To have a reflective attitude to life
- ❖ To have an understanding of the influences of religious beliefs, values and traditions on individual and the wider community
- ❖ To recognise and build upon pupils' prior knowledge and faith background
- ❖ To reflect on personal beliefs and experiences in the light of their studies
- ❖ To develop a positive attitude towards other people, respecting their right to hold different beliefs from their own and towards living in a society of many religions

March 2004 (Schools Committee)