



**Soar Valley College**

A SPECIALIST MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE

**ASPIRE ENJOY ACHIEVE**

## Religious Education Department



The Religious Education department is a team of four staff. Historically located within Humanities, we are temporarily with just History whilst the school building is expanded to meet the growing need for student places in the city of Leicester. There is a strong collaborative approach both within RE and amongst this wider team. The shared staff work room gives us the opportunity to constantly liaise and share ideas.

Professional development is highly valued to support staff and subjects. Working cooperatively is valued and staff are supportive and share learning and teaching ideas. Collaborative planning is undertaken within the subject team, and ideas shared between subjects as well.

Teachers all have their own well-resourced rooms in our new T Block. Resources are generally stored centrally, and increasingly electronically. Religious Education uses the College's excellent IT resources including three mobile lap safes kept within the area, the use of which is actively promoted.

In Key Stage 3 R.E is taught in twelve mixed ability form groups. RE is taught to 'Harmony and Diversity', the Leicester Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, having two lessons fortnightly. A range of both thematic and systematic approaches are used in teaching. Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Sikhism are the faiths most studied, however other examples are used where appropriate. The College is a microcosm of the diverse nature of the faith and multicultural landscape of the City of Leicester, a rich environment for the teaching of Religious Education.



GCSE starts in year 9 where topics become an overlap of the Agreed Syllabus and GCSE. The AQA specification is then covered throughout years 9, 10 and 11, with three hours fortnightly, preparing students for the Thematic Issues and Christianity and Hinduism Belief and Practice papers. Outcomes are high, with approximately 70% and 40% of the whole cohort making expected and more than expected progress last year at GCSE level.



A range of learning and teaching styles and approaches are used. A variety of activities and methods are used and continually developed to suit the abilities and needs of different classes within the scheme and specification. The new forms of assessment and the development of new schemes of learning for the new GCSE specifications are major priorities for the department currently.

There are many and varied opportunities for students to enter competitions such as the NATRE Spirited Arts programme, and links are developed and encouraged beyond the college.

The Head of Department is very experienced and has links far and wide. Links through the City RE Teacher Network also enable staff to discuss and explore pedagogy and curriculum practice beyond the department. We belong to NATRE and subscribe to RE Today, and are constantly seeking to develop our practice and resources so as to achieve the highest outcomes for our students.



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