

Religious Education Supports the Community

Religious Education provides opportunities to promote the fundamental shared values characteristic of British society, known in shorthand as “British Values”*(footnote) and supports the moral, social and cultural development of pupils by:

- developing pupils’ awareness, knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other religions and worldviews,
- and also of their beliefs, values, practices, traditions and forms of expression through
- considering the influence and relationship of these on individuals, families, communities and cultures and society.

Pupils can develop their appreciation, sensitivity and relationships with others, in particular those whose faith, traditions, beliefs and values are different from their own, when they investigate and articulate their own and others’ values, beliefs and approaches to a range of social, ethical and contemporary issues so as to:

- recognise the diversity of viewpoints as well as the common ground between them
- engage in discussion about religious, spiritual and moral questions which may involve disagreeing reasonably and respectfully with each other
- respond to the feelings of others and be aware of their own bias

Religious Education can help pupils to appreciate and celebrate diversity in local communities, regional, national and international society through understanding similarities and differences when encountering people, literature, creative and expressive arts and resources from a wide range of cultures, religions, faiths and traditions, in order to discover and consider the connection between beliefs, values and the different forms of expression, including art. This then strengthens pupils’ sense of belonging and helps them to value themselves and others, and develop the willingness to learn from others, even when others’ views or beliefs are different from their own.

Pupils can also:

- consider how beliefs may lead to particular actions and concerns
- appreciate that some beliefs and views are not inclusive
- consider the issues that this may raise for individuals, communities and societies

Religious Education promotes values of truth, justice, respect for all and care for the environment through examining how religious and non-religious teachings have influenced attitudes.

When exploring the influence of family, friends, media, teachings, texts and guidance from moral/religious leaders on their own and others' beliefs, moral choices and identity, Religious Education can support the PREVENT agenda through:

- promoting racial and religious respect and interfaith harmony,
- combatting prejudice and discrimination
- contributing positively to community cohesion and promoting interfaith cooperation
- supporting the pursuit of the common good, and the importance of resolving conflict

*The definition and reference to “British Values” has been derived from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/guidance-on-promoting-british-values-in-schools-published>