

Policy Statement on Religious Education and Collective Worship

The curriculum in Religious Studies at King Edward VI Handsworth School for Girls aims to:

- Develop life-long learners with intellectual curiosity and a passion for understanding the world
- Develop deep thinkers who can confidently evaluate complex religious, moral and philosophical questions
- Develop an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion
- Empower students to recognise the important and distinctive features of religious expression, and to recognise the diversity inherent in faith traditions
- Enhance their personal, social and cultural development, their understanding of different cultures locally, nationally and in the wider world and to contribute to social and community cohesion
- Recognise the holistic development of the child, encouraging them to reflect upon and express elements of our common humanity
- Empower all students to express their personal theology in a developed way

The overall balance of the Curriculum reflects the fact that the religious traditions of the country are mainly Christian, while taking account of the beliefs, traditions and practices of the other principal faiths around the world. Specifically, there is no teaching by means of any catechism or formulary, which is distinctive of any particular religious denominations, although teaching about denominational differences does arise. The rights of parents (in respect of their children) not to participate in RS lessons are always respected.

Collective worship takes place on a regular, although not necessarily whole school basis. It is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character without being distinctive of any particular denomination. It reflects the broad traditions of Christian belief without containing exclusively Christian material. Other faiths and their traditions are marked and celebrated in assemblies and other gatherings.