

Re-approved: October 2016

Review Date: June 2017

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

### **Background**

Trinity Academy is open to members of all faiths and none and has a Catholic ethos. It serves all sections of the SW London community. Its founders believe in sharing the best of the Catholic educational tradition with the wider society. The Academy is run by an independent charitable trust and is not under diocesan control. As part of its Public Sector Equality Duty, Trinity seeks to foster harmony and mutual understanding between members of different faith communities and between people of faith and those who are not adherents of any faith, thereby to contribute to social cohesion. Religious Education plays an important part in fostering understanding of religions by providing pupils with a bedrock of knowledge, developing domain-specific vocabularies and establishing an appropriate conceptual framework. Pupils at Trinity will be encouraged to learn *about* religion and to learn *from* religion. Trinity Academy has high ambitions for its pupils in RE and seeks to develop deep understanding and sophistication in this subject discipline.

### **RE Curriculum**

Pupils at Trinity Academy will have opportunities to learn about religion both within the academic timetable, within short retreats and within enrichment strands and co-curricular provision in the extended school day. They will also be able to go on trips and visits outside the academy to places of religious interest and significance.

The RE curriculum at Trinity Academy:

- Is based upon the requirements of the academy's Funding Agreement, which says that the RE syllabus must reflect that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain.
- Does not provide an RE syllabus to pupils by means of any catechism or formulary which is distinctive of any particular religious denomination. (This does not mean, however, that the dispassionate study of such formularies is ruled out.)
- Takes note of, from time to time, the Curriculum Directory of the Catholic Bishops' Conference so that the school can know how best to offer appropriate support to Catholic parents in fulfilling their duty to educate their children in the Catholic Faith.

- Takes note of the Agreed Syllabus produced by Lambeth SACRE chiefly as a source when specifying knowledge requirements relating to a range of faiths, without being bound by any of its specified schemes of study.
- Includes Philosophy as part of the curriculum, particularly moral philosophy and ethics (and in particular, Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*) and contains strands designed to develop pupils' moral discernment and reasoning and a particular understanding of virtues.
- Encourages pupils in their individual spiritual development. For those belonging to a particular faith tradition, this will include supporting them to deepen their understanding of their own faith tradition as well as learning about others. For those of no faith tradition, this will include supporting their exploration of a variety of religious and secular worldviews and philosophical traditions in a wide range of contexts.

The RE curriculum will play an important part in developing pupils' spiritual, moral and social development and in the delivery of the school's PSHE, Citizenship and Sex & Relationship Education strands.

The aims of the RE Curriculum are to:

- Assist pupils to develop their religious and theological knowledge and understanding.
- Develop their skills of reflection, discernment, critical thinking and deciding how to act in accordance with an informed conscience.
- Raise pupils' awareness and understanding of other faiths and traditions to their own.
- Help pupils explore the relationship between life and faith and between faith and culture.
- Develop pupils' sense of their personal worth, individuality and identity.
- Foster in each pupil a positive attitude towards other people, respecting their right to hold different beliefs from their own.
- Develop an understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures.
- Develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues, with reference to pupils' own beliefs, the teachings of the principal religions and philosophical traditions represented in the UK and considered within the context of British values.
- To develop pupils' capacity to recognize and protect themselves against threats posed by religious extremists – both violent and non-violent.
- Enhance pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development by developing an awareness of the fundamental questions of life raised by human experiences and how religious teachings and philosophies can relate to them, and by fostering the ability to reflect on their own beliefs, values and experiences in the light of their study.

Appropriate alternative arrangements will be made for pupils whose parents have serious objections to any or all of the RE programme of study.

## **Cross-Curriculum Working**

Trinity Academy recognises that religion is not something that can be confined to a single subject silo, but rather finds expression across the gamut of human activity. RE staff may be involved in collaborating with colleagues to deliver elements of the RE Curriculum and/or exploring the religious dimensions, relevance and resonances within other subject disciplines, including (but not limited to) History, Art, English Literature, Classical & Foreign Languages, Music and Values.

## **Collective worship**

There will be prayer or reflection of a Christian character at least once each school day.

Hymns and sacred music may be sung at assemblies.

Clergy from various faith traditions and speakers from a Humanist background may be invited to assemblies or to address groups of pupils from time to time.

The Academy may mark the major feast days and festivals of significant faith traditions represented within London.

Attendance at Mass or other services that are not school assemblies, whether on or off-site, will be entirely voluntary.

## **School Values**

The school will foster the cultivation of what the Catholic Church calls the Cardinal Virtues:

- Prudence
- Justice
- Fortitude
- Temperance

These Cardinal Virtues will inform and underpin the ethos of the Academy and in particular, its values, namely:

- **Wisdom:** the ability to make right judgements
- **Fairness:** to seek justice and to give everyone their rightful due.
- **Courage:** to overcome our fears and remain steady in the face of obstacles.
- **Self-Discipline:** the practice of self-control and moderation

The inculcation of these values is a part both of the RE Curriculum and the wider culture of the Academy.

**Review:** To be reviewed annually by the Board of Trustees