



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY (PRIMARY)

“Vast oceans of truth lie all undiscovered before me.” Isaac Newton

At Isaac Newton Academy our aim is to equip every student with the knowledge, learning power and character necessary for success at university and beyond. We place an emphasis on ensuring that all students flourish and become confident individuals, who respect and value themselves and others. A key aspect of this is the promotion of students’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development which provides a vital foundation for life (see INA SMSC Policy). The RE curriculum prepares students to live and work in a diverse society. It supports students in gaining knowledge and understanding of a range of religious beliefs and encourages them to understand and respect the cultures, faith and backgrounds of others.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

At Isaac Newton Academy assemblies, class lessons and the numerous other occasions when groups from the Academy come together, are opportunities for a shared experience and for collective as well as personal reflection. They are occasions when the community can focus on and re-affirm the core values of the Academy, which include mutual respect and hard work and the BRIDGES dispositions of bravery, resourcefulness, integrity, discovery, grit, emotional intelligence and self discipline. They reinforce and celebrate the cohesive, harmonious character of the Isaac Newton Academy community. Explicit BRIDGES lessons are also taught twice every half-term in KS1 and KS2 as part of the school’s PSHE curriculum. Time within some of these sessions, are planned for reflection and discussion about their own achievements and next steps linked to the BRIDGES focus for the half-term. KS2 pupils also get to work with Y9 mentors to build their character and learning power further, twice a year.

These important shared events encourage students to:

- show an interest in and empathy for members of the Academy and wider community
- celebrate significant occasions and events as a community
- mark and acknowledge the significance of key religious festivals
- reflect upon events and issues in the local community and wider world
- show appreciation of meaningful activities such as charity fund raising and citizenship events undertaken by members of the Academy community
- explore and reflect upon the diverse values, attitudes and beliefs of the wider society
- develop and apply an understanding of right and wrong in their life
- develop a feeling of belonging to a community



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education (RE) contributes to students' understanding of and respect for religious and cultural diversity. It helps them to understand the beliefs and perspectives of others. It provides numerous opportunities for personal reflection and discussion of moral, spiritual and ethical issues. RE encourages students to develop a sense of wonder about the world around them and to investigate and reflect on the implications of religion and belief for their personal lives.

- At Isaac Newton Primary, RE is taught through half termly topics, often with cross curricular links with other subjects.
- The locally agreed SACRE RE curriculum is followed, providing pupils with coverage from each major world religion.
- Every year group across the school will visit at least one place of worship during the academic year. Across the primary phase pupils from Isaac Newton Primary will have experienced a place of worship for each of the major world religions.
- In all year groups, religious education is an integral part of the topic work covered during the year. In Reception we relate the religious education aspects of the children's work to the objectives set out in the Early Learning Goals and for Key Stage 1, the objectives set out in the local SACRE.

The RE curriculum provides opportunities for students to:

- reflect on some of the most fundamental questions asked by people
- experience the joy of discovery
- develop an awareness of spiritual and moral issues in life experiences
- develop an understanding of religious traditions and appreciate cultural differences
- have respect for other's peoples' views and to celebrate diversity in society
- explore and reflect on their own and other people's experiences.

SMSC

Our approach to the delivery of SMSC includes:

- SMSC forming an integral part of the class lessons and assembly programme
- teaching that encourages participation, creativity, reflection and independence
- quality assessment and feedback that places value on students' effort
- an Academy-wide emphasis on developing students' BRIDGES dispositions
- opportunities to develop teamwork, leadership skills and self-reliance
- opportunities for students to participate in a range of artistic, cultural, sporting, dramatic, musical, mathematical, scientific and technological events that promote aspects of SMSC development
- opportunities for reflection and feedback across the curriculum
- a range of opportunities for students to be involved in active citizenship



Isaac Newton Academy is a secular school but the religious beliefs and practices of all members of the school community are respected.

Related INA Policies/ Documents

Equal Opportunities Policy

SMSC Policy

Teaching and Learning Policy

BRIDGES Policy

RSE Policy

Reviewed July 2020