



## **Curriculum Statement – Religious Education**

The St Ives School Religious Education Curriculum ensures that all our students are given the opportunity for academic and personal development across a broad range of subjects and experiences. It combines equality of opportunity in our core learning with opportunities for students to make individual choices regarding their learning experiences. Acquisition of knowledge and transferable skills are the cornerstones of our students' progress and we place a high value on their understanding of community, place and social justice. Lessons and other learning experiences are sequenced to build on students' prior knowledge; to ensure that students deepen their understanding of each theme; and to explore the interconnection between themes, subjects and their global contexts.

Our Core Principles in Religious Education are:

- That students should leave St Ives with a strong sense of self-esteem, placing a high value on their own achievements and those of others. They should have a confident knowledge of the life skills and emotional resilience which provide a platform for future success and happiness.
- That students and staff work together to sustain our thriving school community through the research, design and implementation of highly effective and inspirational activities.
- That continuous improvement is achieved through a whole school culture of, and commitment to, creativity, engagement and professionalism.

Religious Education provokes challenging questions about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life, beliefs about God and religion, moral issues and what it means to be human in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It encourages students to explore different religions, beliefs, values and traditions whilst learning from those of others. Religious Education actively promotes the British Value of mutual respect and tolerance for different faiths and beliefs.

We study both elements of Religion Education and Philosophy in order to nurture students' academic curiosity. They are encouraged to ask questions and

evaluate the existence and meaning of life: where life begins and where life ends. Within the framework of Religion and Philosophy we aim to enable students to apply historical, philosophical and theistic ideology to an evolving world. Religion and Philosophy allows students to debate different belief systems in a supportive environment and to practise tolerance and mutual respect for other faiths and beliefs. Students are also encouraged to consider their own responses to the different belief systems they will study in the confidence of this mutual respect and tolerance.

Religious Education is taught across all year groups following the requirements of the National Curriculum and the Cornwall Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education (SACRE). At GCSE level students study the AQA Short Course in Religious Education.

*"The essence of all religions is one. Only their approaches are different"*

*Mahatma Gandhi*