

WHAT MAKES RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DISTINCTIVE?

DEFINING DISTINCTIVENESS

Religious Education (RE) is distinctive because it doesn't just transfer knowledge, it invites pupils to explore meaning, belief, and values. It blends disciplines and encourages dialogue that shapes personal and collective development.

WHY IT MATTERS FOR TEACHERS & LEADERS

Multidisciplinary Nature: RE draws on history, philosophy, theology, sociology, and ethics to give pupils a rich and rounded perspective.

Engagement with Worldviews: Both religious and non-religious worldviews are explored, helping pupils to see diverse perspectives and develop their own reflective thinking.

Exploration of Meaning & Purpose: Pupils are invited to grapple with big questions: Why are we here? What is good and evil?

Ethical & Moral Development: RE links belief with action, supporting pupils to think about values, decision-making, and moral reasoning.

Dialogue & Respect: Students learn to listen, reflect, and engage respectfully with views different from their own, vital in today's diverse society.

WHY IT MATTERS FOR TEACHERS & LEADERS

Teachers: Design lessons that combine knowledge with critical thinking, empathy, and reflection.

Leaders: Ensure RE's distinctiveness is visible in curriculum planning, CPD, and evidence for SMSC & British Values.



PRACTICAL TIPS YOU CAN TRY THIS WEEK

Start lessons with **open questions** that spark reflection.

Include a mix of **religious and non-religious** worldviews.

Plan activities that build **dialogue and moral reasoning**.

Share how **RE contributes to SMSC** and British Values in staff/leadership meetings.