

**Purpose:** The purpose of integrating knowledge of different religions and beliefs into the national curriculum is to promote cultural literacy, understanding, and respect among students. The curriculum seeks to equip learners with a comprehensive awareness of the diverse range of religious traditions and beliefs globally. Knowledge of different religions and beliefs is instrumental in cultivating well-rounded individuals who are not only aware of their own cultural context but are also capable of engaging with and appreciating the beliefs and practices of others. It contributes to the development of a socially cohesive society, emphasizing the importance of pluralism, mutual respect, and fostering a sense of global citizenship.

#### Assessment:

**Key Stage 1:** In early stages, assessments could involve interactive activities such as storytelling or simple quizzes to gauge basic knowledge of different religions and beliefs. This could include recognizing symbols, understanding basic practices, and appreciating the diversity of cultural celebrations. Informal discussions and creative projects can also offer insights into the students' early grasp of religious concepts.

**Key Stage 2:** Assessment at this stage could include more structured tasks like research projects focusing on specific religions. Students might be asked to create presentations, posters, or short reports, showcasing their understanding of the core beliefs, practices, and historical contexts of different religions.

**Key Stage 3:** Assessments could involve more complex tasks such as analysing the influence of religion on historical events or societal norms. Students might engage in debates or presentations exploring the impact of different belief systems on culture and politics. Assessments could focus on critical thinking skills, the ability to analyse information, and articulate well-reasoned arguments.

**Key Stage 4:** Assessment in the later stages of secondary education could involve more comprehensive examinations, essays, or projects that delve into the comparative study of religions. Students might explore the connections between different belief systems, examining how religious diversity shapes global affairs. Assessors can evaluate the depth of understanding, analytical skills, and the capacity to draw connections between religious, cultural, and historical contexts. This approach prepares students for a nuanced appreciation of global diversity as they approach higher education or enter the workforce.

#### Cross curriculum:

**English:** Read literature from diverse cultures and religious backgrounds. Analyse how authors incorporate religious themes into their works. Discuss the cultural and historical contexts that shape characters' beliefs.

**Mathematics:** Explore mathematical concepts used in religious rituals and structures. Analyse statistical data related to the demographics of different religious groups. Discuss historical contributions of mathematicians from various religious backgrounds.

**Science:** Study the intersections of science and religion. Explore how different belief systems approach scientific concepts. Discuss the contributions of scientists from diverse religious backgrounds.

**History:** Examine historical events through the lens of religious influence. Discuss the role of religion in shaping civilizations, conflicts, and social structures. Explore the spread and impact of major world religions.

**Geography:** Explore the geographical distribution of different religions. Discuss how geography influences religious practices and beliefs. Analyse the significance of religious sites and landmarks.

**Art and Design:** Explore religious art and design. Discuss the symbolism and styles associated with different religious traditions. Encourage students to create art inspired by religious themes.

**Physical Education:** Explore the role of physical activities in different religious practices. Discuss how religious beliefs may influence attitudes toward health and physical well-being.

**Design and Technology:** Investigate how technology is used in religious practices and structures. Explore the design of religious artefacts and consider the ethical implications of technological advancements within religious contexts.

**Modern Foreign Languages:** Study religious texts and vocabulary in different languages. Discuss how linguistic nuances express religious ideas. Explore cultural differences in linguistic expressions of faith.

**PSHE:** Promote understanding and respect for religious diversity. Discuss the role of religion in shaping individuals' values, beliefs, and cultural identities. Explore issues related to religious tolerance and inclusivity.

**Music:** Explore music from various religious traditions. Discuss the role of music in religious rituals and ceremonies. Analyse the cultural and spiritual significance of different musical expressions.

**Drama:** Use drama to explore religious narratives and themes. Encourage students to create and perform plays that reflect different belief systems. Discuss how drama can contribute to cultural understanding and empathy.

#### Key Stage or stage breakdown:

**Key Stage 1:** In KS1, the focus is on introducing basic concepts of religious diversity. Students might explore simple aspects of different religions, such as recognizing symbols, understanding basic beliefs, and appreciating cultural celebrations. Assessments could involve informal discussions, creative activities, and observations of students' ability to grasp foundational concepts of various religions.

**Key Stage 2:** In KS2, students delve deeper into specific religions and cultural practices. The focus is on providing more detailed information about different belief systems. Students may create presentations, posters, or short reports on specific religions, demonstrating an understanding of basic beliefs, practices, and historical contexts. Assessments aim to evaluate the clarity of their presentations and the accuracy of the information provided.

**Key Stage 3:** Middle school involves a more in-depth exploration of the impact of religions on societies. Students may engage in projects or discussions analysing the influence of religious perspectives on historical events, literature, or art. Assessments can evaluate critical thinking skills, depth of understanding, and the ability to make connections between different belief systems and broader cultural contexts.

**Key Stage 4:** In the later stages of secondary education, the focus is on a comparative study of religions and an understanding of their global impact. Students might explore the connections between different belief systems and analyse how religions shape global affairs. Assessments could include more comprehensive examinations, essays, or research projects, evaluating their ability to synthesize information, analyse complex issues, and present well-reasoned arguments.