**Intent**

At The Observatory School, we recognise and take pride in our commitment to Equality and Diversity and therefore we teach in a way that not only reflects our aims, values and philosophy but also promotes the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of our students. By doing this, we aim to prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life. We recognise the important role that religious education plays as part of a broad and balanced curriculum, whilst enabling our students to grow and become tolerant and respectful citizens. The Observatory School takes pride in ensuring the curriculum encourages students to reflect on challenging questions whilst respecting and appreciating that everybody has their own set of beliefs and values that may differ from their own.

**Implementation**

At The Observatory School, we deliver religious education once a week under the pseudonym ‘The world around us’. We provide memorable learning experiences used to enhance learning experience and different learning styles. Our curriculum follows the Wirral agreed syllabus 2019 and aims to ensure that all pupils:

* Understand the ideas, practices and contemporary manifestations of a diversity of religions and non-religious worldviews
* Understand how religions and beliefs are woven into, and influenced by, all dimensions of human experience
* Engage with questions raised about religions and beliefs, including questions about meaning and purpose in life, beliefs about God, ultimate reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human
* Understand some of the main approaches to the study of religions
* Develop their own beliefs, ideas, practices, values and identities
* Develop the motivation, understanding and skills to make enquiring into religious questions a lifetime activity
* Develop as responsible citizens of changing local, national and world communities with diverse religions and beliefs.

In KS2 and KS3, students learn about Christianity and a selection of other world religions, building on their work from KS1. Secular worldviews such as humanism are introduced during these key stages too. In KS4, students deepen their knowledge and understanding, extend and rehearse their skills, and further explore their attitudes, values and attributes that they have acquired during key stage 3. Students work towards their ASDAN short course in Beliefs and Values. The course involves collecting evidence and therefore earning up to six credits for the six modules studied:

* Values, beliefs and decision making
* Environment
* Crime and punishment
* Peace and conflict
* Beliefs and practice
* Inspiration

We ensure our curriculum is differentiated to meet the needs of our learners in all key stages. Lessons delivered are engaging and challenging, but provide opportunities for pupils to work at their own pace and revisit subject content where necessary. Lessons are delivered in a positive way with lots of access to movement breaks, fiddle toys and time out cards to ensure students are able to focus on their work for as long as possible; ensuring that SEND needs are catered to. At the start of each lesson we use student's regulation charts to determine if students are regulated and therefore ready to work; if not strategies are put in place in order for them to regulate and continue with the work as quickly as possible.

All classes have a teaching assistant to help learners with the expected lesson objectives. Teaching assistance will support lower ability pupils as well as higher ability pupils as directed by the class teacher. Some pupils may be supported one to one away from the class by a teaching assistant.

Assessment for learning opportunities are built into each lesson in addition to the start and end of each unit. Self-evaluation and reflective learning is also encouraged in each piece of work completed using self-evaluation slips

**Impact**

Through their learning, the students at The Observatory School are able to make links between their own lives and those of others in their community and in the wider world. The dynamic curriculum will create opportunities for students to develop as creative thinkers, reflective learners, team workers, independent learners, and effective communicators, using religious vocabulary, questioning and empathy. Students will have the ability to respond to Christianity, principal world religions, other religious traditions and other worldviews whilst developing skills of enquiry, reflection, application and response. Students will have a respect and sensitivity to others, in particular those whose faith and beliefs are different to their own.

The impact of our curriculum is sought directly from the students as surveys and questionnaires are used to gather student’s voice on this subject and together with summative assessment, action can be taken to further develop the Religious Education offered at The Observatory School.