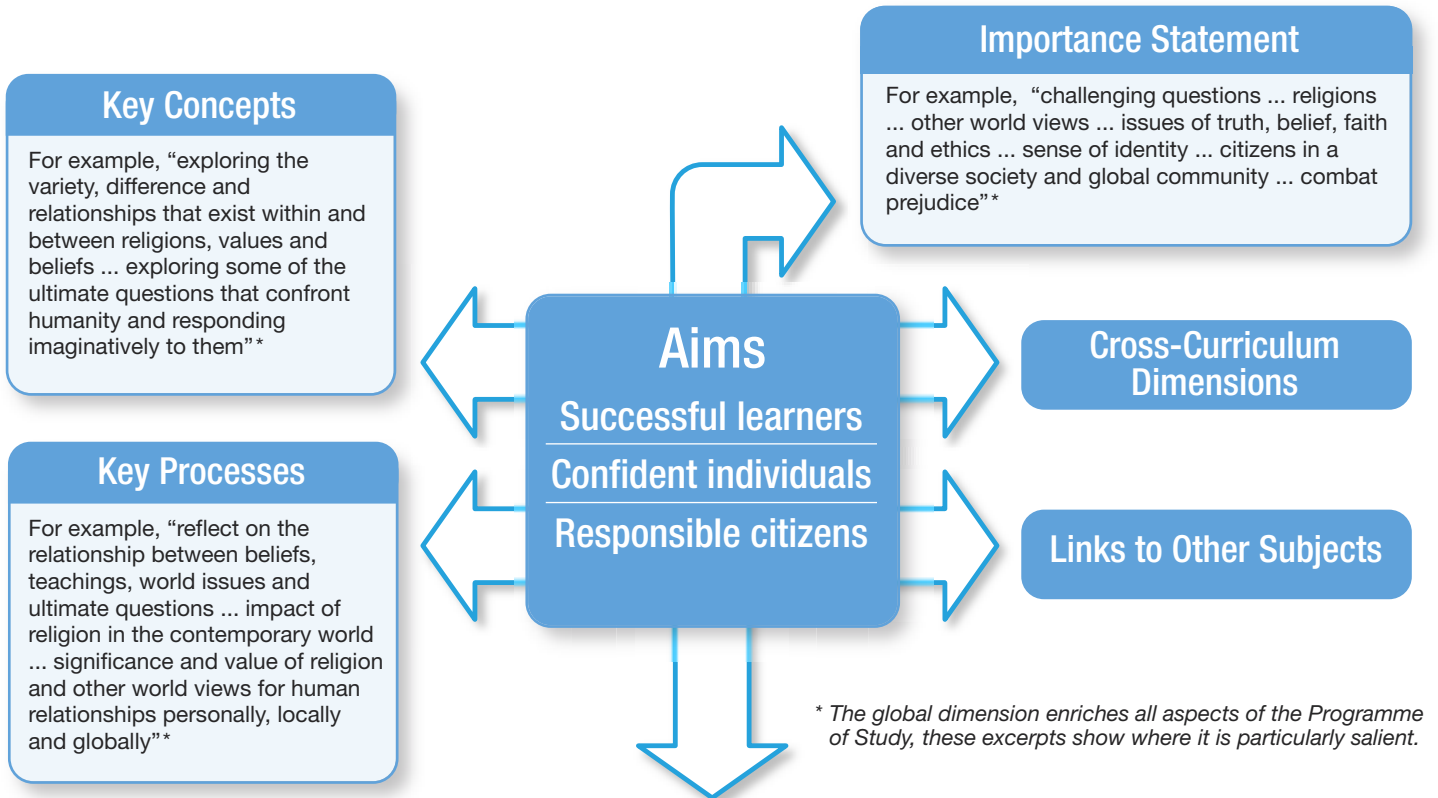


# Exploring the Global Dimension to Religious Education

Religious education provides opportunities for young people to discuss social justice; controversial issues; and what different religions and beliefs say about global issues such as health, wealth, war and the environment. They reflect on their own and other's identities and motivations.



## Eight Key Concepts of the Global Dimension

### Global Citizenship

For example, exploring the role of religious leaders in responding to conflict situations.

### Interdependence

For example, understanding the influence that diverse cultures and ideas have on each other and how different religions have influenced each other over time.

### Social Justice

For example, challenging racism and other forms of discrimination and injustice.

### Human Rights

For example, recognising the universality of human rights.

### Conflict Resolution

For example, understanding that any religious or other world view can be held in a closed-minded or open-minded way and the importance of dialogue.

### Diversity

For example, developing a sense of awe at the diversity of people and environments around the world.

### Sustainable Development

For example, exploring a range of religious and other world views on humans' relationship with the natural world.

### Values and Perceptions

For example, developing multiple perspectives and new ways of seeing events, issues and opinions.

*The eight key concepts form part of the cross-curriculum dimension, 'Global dimension and sustainable development'.*

# A few examples

## Diversity within religions

Students can explore the way in which a particular religious festival is celebrated locally and by people of the same faith in a distant locality.

They can choose one particular issue such as gender equality or humans' relationship to the natural world and research the range of ways in which the issue is portrayed by representatives of one particular religion.

Student might move on to explore differences in the relationship between religions and politics in different countries.

## Social justice

Students can start with a quote from an influential figure such as Archbishop Desmond Tutu who said: "If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality" or Mahatma Gandhi who said "an eye for an eye makes the whole world blind".

They can discuss their views on this in an abstract sense, based on particular world views which they have explored previously. They can research how the view has informed the life of the speaker.

They can then explore what this view means for a particular situation locally and for a particular situation globally.

## Religion in the media

Students can explore portrayals of religion and religious figures in the international sections of a range of daily newspapers. Which religions appear most? Do articles recognise diversity within religions? Who speaks for particular religions? Are religions mostly portrayed positively or negatively?

Groups can choose one story which they would like to research further on the internet. Individuals can write articles about that story from particular perspectives.

## Find out more

### The Global Dimension Website

Search for a wide range of global dimension teaching resources; find local organisations to support you, including Development Education Centres; and sign up to the termly Global Dimension newsletter at: [www.globaldimension.org.uk](http://www.globaldimension.org.uk)

To download additional copies of this leaflet and tell us how you have used it, please go to: [www.globaldimension.org.uk/explore](http://www.globaldimension.org.uk/explore)

### The Religious Education Council

See links to members at [www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk](http://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk)

### The National Association of Teachers of Religious Education

[www.natre.org.uk/](http://www.natre.org.uk/)

### SAPERRE

Find out about Philosophy for Children at [www.sapere.org.uk](http://www.sapere.org.uk)

### BBC - Religions

[www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/)

### QCA Secondary Curriculum Website

<http://curriculum.qca.org.uk>