



Example of an RE policy in a secondary school

RE Today
Services

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[Name of school]

Religious Education Policy

Context

- **[school name]** is ... *(state numbers on roll, type of school, co-education/ single sex, whether sixth form)*
- We deliver Religious Education (RE) in line with the Locally Agreed Syllabus/..... Diocesan guidelines *(fill in as appropriate)*

Academies and free schools can choose which agreed syllabus to use or create a syllabus of their own following the same guidelines as other agreed syllabus writers.

- **[school name]** recognises the education value of Religious Education in the school curriculum *(state numbers entered for GCSE short and full courses, as well as sixth form entries if applicable)*
- **[school name]** also recognises the excellent contribution RE makes to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development across the school.

Legal requirements

The National Curriculum states that:

Every state-funded school must offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly based, and which:

- promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils, and
- prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life ...

All state schools... must teach religious education... All schools must publish their curriculum by subject and academic year online.

DfE, The National Curriculum in England: Framework Document, September 2013, p.4

Breadth of RE: **[school name]** recognises that RE 'must reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain' (Education Act (1996 Section 375 (3)) Schools Standards and Framework Act (1998, Schedule 19, para 5). The breadth of RE is referred to in more detail in the section on 'curriculum' below.

Right of withdrawal: Parents (or students who are over 18) have the right to withdraw their children either partly or wholly from RE. In addition, teachers have the right not to teach the subject. Our approach to RE, however, has been constructed in the hope that parents and teachers will rarely, if ever, wish to exercise their right of withdrawal.