



GUILSBOROUGH ACADEMY RELIGIOUS STUDIES POLICY AND STATEMENT ON RELIGIOUS WORSHIP

Policy Name	Religious Studies
Statutory	No
Principal to ratify Trustees to note	

Date Ratified	Review Date
January 2025	January 2028

Changes made to the policy / document

Review Date	Page Number	Details of changes made
January 2023	1	Point 2; Beliefs and Ethics added to bottom of page
January 2023	3	Point 5; Beliefs and Ethics added to page

1. Context

- Guilsborough Academy is a comprehensive 11-18 secondary school
- We deliver Religious Education (RE) in line with the National guidelines
- Guilsborough Academy recognises the education value of Religious Education in the school curriculum
- Guilsborough Academy also recognises the excellent contribution RE makes to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development across the school.

2. 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

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 (or “Beliefs and Ethics”), however, has been constructed in the hope that parents and teachers will rarely, if ever, wish to exercise their right of withdrawal.



Religious Education at Guilsborough Academy is informed by both the Agreed Syllabus and the QCA non-statutory guidance on RE. <https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/schools-and-education/information-for-school-staff/curriculum-and-resources/Pages/religious-education--agreed-syllabus.aspx>

Any withdrawal requests must be submitted in writing to the academy, these should be addressed to the Director of Global Studies clearly stating:

- Which aspects of the Religious Education curriculum students/parents are asking to be withdrawn from
- In the event a student/parent wishes to be withdrawn from all Religious Education this must be stated clearly
- A brief explanation of the reasons for the request

All requests will be reviewed by the Vice Principal, parents/carers will receive a written confirmation once agreed.

3. THE AIMS OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

- to learn about religious traditions, beliefs and practices, and to understand that they are a response to fundamental questions of human existence.
- to be given the opportunity to reflect on and make decisions about a personal response to questions of meaning and value.

This will be done through the two attainment targets:

Attainment target 1: Learning about religions

- knowledge and understanding of religious beliefs and teachings;
- knowledge and understanding of religious practices and lifestyles;
- knowledge and understanding of ways of expressing meaning.

Attainment target 2: Learning from religion

- skill of asking and responding to questions of identity and experience;
- skill of asking and responding to questions of meaning and purpose;
- skill of asking and responding to questions of values and commitments.

There is a national assessment scale for RE based on these two attainment targets and Guilsborough Academy learner pathways. This scale is used at Guilsborough Academy to assess pupils' performance and progress.

4. ACADEMY AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

RE contributes to the whole school aims. In particular:

- RE helps pupils to value and respect the beliefs that people hold
- RE maintains and forges links with the community's belief groups
- RE contributes to the equal opportunities policy.
- RE contributes to the SMSC education within the school.



5. ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE CURRICULUM

At Key Stage Three RE (Beliefs and Ethics) is taught within the Humanities department. The lead for Religious Education is responsible for ensuring the implementation of the policy under the guidance of the Director of Global and Senior Leadership Team Link.

At Key Stage Four RS is an optional GCSE (AQA) and delivered in 5 lessons a fortnight focusing on the religions of Christianity and Islam and the themes of Relationships, Conflict, Crime and Human Rights.

PSHE is timetabled in Year 10 (2024-25), continuing into Year 11 (25-26) which includes Beliefs and Ethics.

British Values, Religious Tolerance and Prejudice is also taught as part of our Life Skills Curriculum in key stages 3-4.

6. TIME ALLOCATION

At Key Stage Three the school aims to meet the time requirements of the Agreed Syllabus and RE is delivered within the context of Integrated Humanities).

At Key Stage Four the academy will provide five 60 minute periods per fortnight for the teaching of RE GCSE through the AQA

7. ASSESSMENT, RECORDING AND REPORTING. TEACHING AND LEARNING STYLES

RE will be assessed in line with the Academy Assessment Policy.

8. SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

RE will seek to make specific contributions in the pupils' personal development:

- SPIRITUAL: RE will explore questions of meaning and value with pupils.
- MORAL: RE will study the development of rules and codes based on religious beliefs.
- SOCIAL: RE will examine the link between religious belief and social grouping.
- CULTURAL: RE will discuss our Christian heritage whilst taking into account the effects of other religions on our world cultures.