

WICKERSLEY

SCHOOL & SPORTS COLLEGE

POLICIES

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY



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Statement of intent

Section 80 of the Education Act 2002 and Schedule 19 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, entitles all pupils to receive a religious education (RE) as part of a broad and balanced curriculum at school which promotes their spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development.

This policy sets out the framework in which Wickersley School and Sports College will ensure that this duty is met.

While meeting this duty, our school will also ensure that RE is:

- Of a high standard, where expectations are clear to pupils, parents, teachers, governors, employers and the public.
- Coherent and shows progression, particularly across the transition of the key stages and post 16.
- Contributing to the school's responsibility to promote community cohesion and high standards of achievement.
- Well understood by the school community, who have confidence in the school's provision and achievement.

Signed by

Headteacher

Date:

Chair of Governors

Date:

Next review date:

1. Legal framework

This policy will have consideration for and be in compliance with the following legislation:

- Education Act 2002
- School Standards and Framework Act 1998

This policy will also have due regard to the following statutory and non-statutory guidance:

- Religious Education in Schools – February 2010

2. Roles and responsibilities

Governors and the headteacher will fulfil their duty to:

- Ensure that RE is provided as part of the school's basic curriculum.
- Provide an annual report to parents or carers, giving brief particulars of progress and achievements in all subjects including RE.

The governors and headteacher must also ensure that:

- All pupils make progress in achieving the learning objectives of the school's RE curriculum.
- The teaching of RE is well led and effectively managed, and that standards and achievement in RE and the quality of the provision are subject to regular and effective self-evaluation.
- Those teaching RE are suitably qualified and trained in the subject and have regular and effective opportunities for continuous professional development (CPD).
- Teachers are aware of RE's contribution in developing pupils' understanding of religion and belief and its impact in promoting community cohesion.
- Where appropriate, pupils have opportunities to take courses which lead to an accredited qualification in the subject.
- Teachers explore how new pedagogies and technology can be fully utilised to support RE learning objectives and promote community cohesion.
- Clear information is provided for parents on the RE curriculum and the right to withdraw.

- Teachers are aware that they do not have to teach RE unless specifically appointed to do so.
- RE is resourced, staffed and timetabled so that the school can fulfil its legal obligations regarding RE and pupils can make good progress.
- Where there are insufficient teachers in the school who are prepared to teach RE, the headteacher will ensure that pupils receive their entitlement to RE, seeking advice from the Local Authority (LA) and/or the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), if necessary.

3. Teaching

The school follows a curriculum that covers all major religious faiths in Great Britain including, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, Judaism and Buddhism. Furthermore, lessons in the school also include a focus on some minority religious and some belief systems/way of life that are not faith based, for example Humanism.

RE at Wickersley School and Sports College will also:

- Provoke challenging questions about the meaning and purpose of life, beliefs, the self, issues of right and wrong, and what it means to be human. As well as Christianity, it will also develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of other principal religions, and religious traditions that examine these questions, fostering personal reflection and spiritual development.
- Encourage pupils to explore their own beliefs (whether they are religious or non-religious), in light of what they learn, as they examine issues of religious belief and faith and how these impact on personal, institutional and social ethics; and to express their responses. This also builds resilience to anti-democratic or extremist narratives.
- Enable pupils to build their sense of identity and belonging, which helps them flourish within their communities and as citizens in a diverse society.
- Teach pupils to develop respect for others, including people with different faiths and beliefs, thereby helping to challenge prejudice.
- Prompt pupils to consider their responsibilities to themselves and to others, and to explore how they might contribute to their communities and to wider society. It encourages empathy, generosity and compassion.

4. Community cohesion

RE makes an important contribution to a school's duty to promote community cohesion. It provides key context to develop young people's understanding and appreciation of diversity, to promote shared values and to challenge racism and discrimination.

Wickersley School and Sports College will use RE to promote community cohesion:

- Within the school, through the exploration, promotion and celebration of diversity, beliefs and values.
- At the local level, investigating patterns of diversity of religion and belief, and forging links with different groups.
- At the national level, through the study of the diversity of religion and belief across the UK and how this influences national life.
- At the global level, through the study of matters of international significance, recognising the impact of the diversity of religion and belief on world issues.

RE subject matter gives particular opportunities to promote an ethos of respect for others, challenge stereotypes and build understanding of other cultures and beliefs. This contributes to promoting an inclusive school ethos that champions democratic values and human rights.

5. Staffing and training

A well trained and confident workforce is crucial in ensuring good quality RE. We will therefore ensure that:

- At least one member of staff has specialist RE qualifications.
- Other teachers can contribute to the teaching of RE, regardless of their personal beliefs.

We will also ensure that:

- All teachers teaching RE are up-to-date with the latest regulations, guidance and best practice regarding RE.
- Our school action plans identify the CPD needs of staff in relation to RE.

6. Right of Withdrawal

Wickersley School and Sports College recognises the right of withdrawal of pupils from RE at the request of their parents. No reason needs to be given.

Where a pupil has been withdrawn, the law provides for alternative arrangements to be made for RE of the kind the parent wants the pupil to receive.

Where alternative arrangements cannot be met through the provision Wickersley School and Sports College, the pupil may receive their RE externally and may be withdrawn from school for a reasonable period of time to allow them to attend these classes.