



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

2026- 2027

DRAFT SUBJECT TO COMMITTEE APPROVAL

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Religious Education Intent

At Wrotham School, Religious Education (R.E) is a vital part of our broad and balanced curriculum. Although we are an Academy without a religious designation, we recognise the importance of equipping students with the knowledge, understanding, and skills to navigate and appreciate the diverse religious and non-religious worldviews that shape our society and the wider global community.

In line with the Kent SACRE Agreed Syllabus, our intent is to:

- Promote knowledge and understanding of a range of religious and non-religious worldviews, including: Christianity, Islam, Sikhism and Buddhism.¹
- Encourage respect, tolerance, and empathy by exploring how beliefs influence individuals, communities, and cultures, helping students to understand different perspectives and challenge prejudice.²
- Develop critical thinking skills, enabling students to reflect on and evaluate different worldviews, as well as their own beliefs, values, and assumptions.³
- Foster spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development, contributing to the personal growth of our students and preparing them for life in modern Britain.⁴
- Encourage enquiry-based learning, promoting curiosity and deepening students' ability to ask thoughtful questions and explore complex issues of meaning, purpose, and ethics.⁵

Religious Education Implementation

All academies have to provide R.E for all their pupils, except for those whose parents exercise the right of withdrawal.⁶

¹ Kent SACRE Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2022–2027

² Kent SACRE Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2022–2027

³ Kent SACRE Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2022–2027

⁴ Kent SACRE Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2022–2027

⁵ Kent SACRE Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2022–2027

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/re-and-collective-worship-in-academies-and-free-schools/religious-education-re-and-collective-worship-in-academies-and-free-schools#re-in-academies-that-are-not-designated-with-a-religious-character>

As an Academy without a religious designation we must not provide an R.E syllabus to pupils by means of any catechism (religious instruction) or formulary (religious doctrine) which is distinctive of any particular religious denomination.⁷

The implementation of our Religious Education curriculum includes:

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/re-and-collective-worship-in-academies-and-free-schools/religious-education-re-and-collective-worship-in-academies-and-free-schools#re-in-academies-that-are-not-designated-with-a-religious-character>

Key Stage 3:

- Year 7 and 8- 1 lesson per week.
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Key Stage 4:

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- Religious Education is also delivered in Progress Time through the celebration and teaching about different faiths and religions.
- Religious Education is delivered in Religious Education curriculum days.

Key Stage 5:

- Religious Education- the celebration of different faiths is delivered in Progress Time.
- Religious Education is delivered in Religious Education curriculum days.

‘There is no single correct way of making appropriate provision for R.E as long as the outcomes are met.’⁸

The outcomes include:

Key Stage 3 (Year 7 and 8)	The teaching of the religious traditions of: Christians, Muslims, Sikhs and Buddhists in Religious Education lessons. In Progress Time, we focus on promoting the knowledge and understanding of a range of religious worldviews and celebrations including: Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism and Islamism.
Key Stage 4	Two religions required, usually including Christianity- this is delivered in Religious Education curriculum days. Year 9 and 10 have three Religious Education curriculum days. Year 11 has two Religious Education curriculum days. In Progress Time, we focus on promoting the knowledge and understanding of a range of religious worldviews and celebrations including: Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism and Islamism.
Key Stage 5	Religions and worldviews. This is delivered in Religious Education curriculum days. Year 12 have three Religious Education curriculum days. Year 13 has two Religious Education curriculum days. In Progress Time, we focus on promoting the knowledge and understanding of a range of religious worldviews and celebrations including: Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism and Islamism.

Syllabus

At Wrotham School, we follow the locally agreed syllabus of ‘Kent SACRE Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2022–2027.’

⁸ Kent SACRE Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2022–2027

Collective Reflection Intent

‘Collective worship provides a daily focal point in school life for the transmission and development of all that school stands for in terms of its beliefs, values, moral codes and community ethos.’⁹

At Wrotham School, our approach to Collective Worship reflects our status as a school without a religious designation, while fulfilling the statutory requirement to provide a daily act of Collective Worship that is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. Our intent is to create inclusive, reflective, and meaningful opportunities that promote shared values such as respect, compassion, integrity, and resilience.

What is Collective Reflection and Spiritual Development?

‘Collective reflection is the gathering together of the school community on a daily basis to think about, respond to, reflect on and consider issues that are important to them as individuals and as a community. It provides the opportunity for those who wish to do so to worship God (however defined or understood).’¹⁰

Collective Reflection Implementation

As an Academy without a religious designation we must provide Collective Worship that is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character. As a school, we can reflect the religious backgrounds represented in our community, as long as the majority of our provision is broadly Christian.¹¹

Our implementation of Collective Reflection and Spiritual Development includes:

Wrotham School is committed to promoting students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through a programme of assemblies, tutor time, personal development, and the wider curriculum. These opportunities encourage students to reflect on shared values, celebrate achievement, consider ethical and moral issues, develop respect for people of all faiths and none, and contribute positively to the school community. Collective reflective moments can also be marked by either playing music or a moment of silence.

Assemblies and tutor activities are aligned with the school's C.O.U.R.S.E. values of Character, Opportunity, Understanding, Respect, Success and Excellence and provide opportunities for quiet reflection, discussion of current issues, celebration of diversity and recognition of individual and collective achievement.

The Right of Withdrawal

In accordance with the Education Act 1996 and the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, parents have the legal right to withdraw their child, wholly or in part, from Religious Education (R.E) and Collective Worship. At Wrotham School, which is a school without a religious designation, we respect this right and will comply with any formal request for withdrawal.

⁹ https://www.kelsi.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/90417/Gathering-Together.pdf

¹⁰ https://www.kelsi.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/90417/Gathering-Together.pdf

¹¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/re-and-collective-worship-in-academies-and-free-schools/religious-education-re-and-collective-worship-in-academies-and-free-schools>

However, we encourage families to engage in dialogue with us before making such a decision, as our approach to R.E and Collective Worship is inclusive and educational. Both are designed to promote understanding, reflection, and respect for a range of beliefs and values, supporting students' spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development.

- 'Parents have the right to withdraw their children from religious education and/or collective worship.'¹²
- 'From age 16, pupils can choose for themselves to opt out of collective worship if they wish. However, they cannot opt out of receiving religious education without parental consent until they are 18.'¹³
- To make a request for the right to withdraw your child from R.E and Collective Worship please write a written request to the Head teacher.

Monitoring

- Religious Education is monitored as part of Teaching and Learning through learning walks and the appraisal process.
- Religious Education is monitored through Line Management.

Links to other policies

Teaching and Learning Policy and Curriculum and Assessment Policy.

Review

To be reviewed on an annual basis – September 2027

References

https://www.kelsi.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/90417/Gathering-Together.pdf

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/re-and-collective-worship-in-academies-and-free-schools/religious-education-re-and-collective-worship-in-academies-and-free-schools>

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/56/section/375>

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/31/schedule/19>

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7cd8f740f0b6629523c2b7/Collective_worship_in_schools.pdf (Paragraph 50 to 88)

Kent SACRE Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2022–2027

END

¹² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/re-and-collective-worship-in-academies-and-free-schools/religious-education-re-and-collective-worship-in-academies-and-free-schools>

¹³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/re-and-collective-worship-in-academies-and-free-schools/religious-education-re-and-collective-worship-in-academies-and-free-schools>

This policy was adopted by the Governors Curriculum Committee

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