

Wokingham Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, 2018-2023

Further information on legal requirements

The Education Act (1996) requires that:

- RE should be taught to all pupils in full time education in schools except for those withdrawn at the request of their parents (details to be found in DCSF publication: RE in English schools: Non-statutory guidance 2010, p27-30).
- RE in community schools and foundation schools not of a religious character should be taught in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus recommended by the Agreed Syllabus Conference to the Local Authority. In schools with a religious foundation, the RE curriculum offered is to be determined by the governing body in accordance with the trust deed. The governing body may recommend that the school follows the Local Authority's agreed syllabus.
- An agreed syllabus should 'reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain'
- The Education Act (1944) requires that an agreed syllabus 'shall not include any catechism or formulary which is distinctive of any particular religious denomination' (The Education Act 1944 section 26(2)). This is understood to mean that an agreed syllabus should not be designed to convert pupils, or to urge a particular religion or religious belief on pupils.
- It is the responsibility of the Headteacher and the governing body to ensure that sufficient time and resources are given to RE in schools to meet the statutory requirements. It is important to note that the status of RE in Key Stage 4 and post 16 is not the same as most other subjects. Here, as well as in the other key stages, it is a compulsory subject for all pupils who have not been withdrawn by their parents.
- It is the role of the SACRE to monitor the effective implementation of the syllabus.

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