

# Religious Education Policy

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*All maintained schools should provide religious education (RE) and collective worship for their pupils, unless they have been withdrawn by their parents. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship and sixth-form students are able to withdraw themselves. The right of withdrawal from RE and collective worship is set out in section 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.*

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## **RE in all community schools and all foundation and voluntary schools without a religious character must follow the agreed syllabus for the area.**

The agreed syllabus is drawn up by the Local Authority (LA), taking advice from local bodies. The Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), a local body made up of representatives from faith groups, teachers and the LA, advise on RE and collective worship issues, whereas the Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC), a subset of the SACRE, recommend new syllabuses. The Headteacher shares responsibility with the LA and the governing body for making sure that the RE requirements are met.

All locally agreed syllabuses must reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are mainly Christian, whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain.

The Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA) has issued nonstatutory guidance on RE for schools.

## **Practice**

At Willingdon Community School the Governors have agreed to follow the local SACRE guidance and deliver the syllabus through an Ethics and Philosophy curriculum delivered in Key Stage 3, 2 periods a fortnight and in Key Stage 4 through an Ethics and Citizenship curriculum of one period a fortnight. In addition at Key Stage 4 Ethics and Philosophy is offered as a GCSE option.

As outlined above, children of parents who wish to withdraw their child from the RE curriculum, or any aspect of it, are provided with alternative work in a supervised area of the school.

Teaching and learning, issues relating to inclusion and equality and diversity together with assessment of RE follows the core principles established across the school for all curriculum areas.

**Miss Emily Beer**  
**Headteacher**

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