



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY

Definition

The place of Religious Education (RE) at Warlingham School is to support all students in developing an understanding of the religious, spiritual and ethical diversity in our society and in our world. We aim to give students the opportunity to develop critical thinking skills, to appreciate and respect the diverse responses to the questions that make up the human experience, and to reflect deeply on their own place in the world.

Aims of RE

The aims of RE in our school are:

- To enable students to learn about belief systems and human experience, including religious traditions and their own beliefs and values. (Attainment target one from the Surrey Agreed Syllabus).
- To enable students to think about their own human development in its personal, social, moral and spiritual dimensions, and in terms of the wider community to which they belong. (Attainment target 2 from the Surrey Agreed Syllabus).

In addition, RE at Warlingham School makes a significant contribution to a number of other areas of school life including:

- The school's multi-cultural curriculum
- The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils
- Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) and Citizenship
- School ethos

Content Selection

In selecting content, we are mindful of:

1. **The legal requirement** that "syllabuses shall reflect the fact that the religious traditions in GB are in the main Christian, whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in GB." (1988 ERA)
2. The need to have a balance in all schemes of work between **explicit** RE (i.e. AT1 'Teaching about') and **implicit** RE (i.e. AT2, 'Teaching from')
[See 'All Our Worlds' pages 6-8]
3. The need to teach the statutory '**Core Content**' at each key stage

In Warlingham School the curriculum is delivered through a thematic approach. The beliefs and practices of world religions will be identified and discussed within a broader philosophical and cultural context through Key Stage 3. At Key Stage 4 we follow the AQA agreed syllabus, looking at Christian, Muslim and non-religious beliefs and practices as well as religious, philosophical and ethical perspectives on the following topics:

Year 9

Human Rights and Social Justice, Prejudice and Discrimination Relationships and the Family: Family Life

Year 10

Religion and Life: Environmental Ethics
Religion and Life: Issues of Life and Death
Relationships and the Family: Sexual Ethics

Year 11

Existence of God and Revelation: Philosophy of Religion
Existence of God and Revelation: Religious Experience

In addition, students will be challenged to explore other areas of belief such as atheism and humanism at key points during their studies.

Planning RE in the Curriculum

Effective Religious Education requires whole school planning with a need to ensure continuity and progression and accumulation of knowledge, understanding, concepts, skills and attitudes. Liaison between year groups and key stage is essential. We recognise that maintaining high standards in RE requires both sound subject knowledge by the teacher and the application of a range of strategies to inform teaching and learning.

Assessment

Pupils should be assessed on a range of areas including knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes. Assessment informs teacher planning and preparation and pupil learning and attainment. Assessment has a formative and summative function for the teacher, pupil and parent. Assessment is built into the medium-term schemes of work.

At Warlingham School assessment will be based on the School's 1-9 grading system. **RE and Inclusion**

Religious Education at Warlingham School provides appropriate adaption in order to meet the needs of all pupils regardless of their academic ability.

Respect for religious and Cultural Diversity

The school will ensure that where possible all faith and cultural traditions and festivals are respected and celebrated within the annual cycle of school life.

The right of Parental Withdrawal

Parents retain the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education under the 1988 Education Reform Act. This right is made clear in our school prospectus to parents/carers. The school will actively seek to persuade parents against withdrawing their child from RE in such cases where the reason for doing so is not thought to be based on sincerely held religious conviction. In all cases the Headteacher will wish to discuss with the parent(s) the implications for their request. All requests to withdraw a child from Religious Education must be in writing and made available to the school Governors.

Visits to support learning in RE

At Warlingham School we aim to provide an entitlement for all pupils to take part in visits to support and extend learning as part of the schemes of work and provide students with an enriching experience of seeing religion in action in the community.

RE and Collective Worship

At Warlingham School we do not deliver our RE through assembly. Occasionally resources introduced to pupils in Assembly e.g. an outside speaker, a theatre in education performance, a piece of music could later be discussed and developed in the classroom as a stimulus to the RE lesson but this would be an exception and not the rule.

Assemblies are a time for students to contemplate a significant idea or issue within the framework of their own beliefs. Through the school calendar as assembly theme will be published every two weeks.

This policy should be read in conjunction with other relevant policies including the Teaching and Learning Policy, the Assembly Policy and Equal Opportunities Policy.

Approved by Local Governing Body	Autumn 2023
Due for review	Autumn 2025
SLT Member	Ms E Tindall