



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. At Warlingham it is taught as part of our Religion and Worldviews curriculum within the Society, Religion and Wellbeing department, and within the Religious Studies GCSEs and A levels. 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:

- Develop their knowledge and understanding of worldviews, beliefs and 'lived experience' across a range of religions and beliefs, reflecting the fact that 'the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions and beliefs represented in Great Britain'.
- Become more aware of their own and other peoples' worldviews, developing their understanding of their own 'personal knowledge' and being able to appreciate the value of views that others hold, even when they don't share those views themselves. Through the curriculum, students should also explore the different factors that influence someone's worldview and be able to apply this thinking to their own worldview.
- Continue to develop important subject-specific and cross-curricular skills, including a wider and more comprehensive use of technical vocabulary.

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 students
- Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE)
- School ethos

Content Selection

In selecting content, we are mindful of:

- **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." (*Education Reform Act 1988*)
- The need to have a balance in all schemes of work between knowledge and understanding of worldviews and developing their own ideas, identities and values (personal knowledge)
- The need to teach the statutory '**Core Content**' at each key stage

In Warlingham School the curriculum is delivered through a thematic approach. Worldviews will be explored through three multi-disciplinary approaches; theology, philosophy and sociology. 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 10

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

Year 11

Religion, Crime and Punishment
Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice

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

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

At Warlingham School assessment will be based on the School's grading system.

RE and Inclusion

Religious Education at Warlingham School provides appropriate adaption in order to meet the needs of all students 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 students 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 students 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.

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	Summer 2025
Due for review	Summer 2027
SLT Member	Mrs L Watts