



Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

Issued: October 2021
Review: Term 1 annually
LST: PMA

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE) POLICY (INCLUDING WITHDRAWAL PROCESS)

Why teach RE?

- Living in the United Kingdom is a multi-faith and multi-cultural society. It is important that children learn about people who may be seen as different to themselves.
- To develop an understanding of how individual faiths and cultures affect day to day living.
- To develop tolerance, respect, empathy and understanding towards all people.
- For children to learn from religions as well as about religions.
- For church schools, to see Christian attitudes forming the basis of the whole school ethos so that the church, the school and the community all work together.

Aims

- Acquire and develop an understanding of religious and principal worldviews practised in Great Britain and to appreciate the cultural differences in our country today.
- Develop an understanding of the influence of beliefs, teachings, values and traditions on individuals, communities, societies and cultures, locally, nationally and globally.
- Develop the ability to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious and moral issues with reference to the teachings and diversity within the religious and non-religious worldviews;
- Enhance their own **spiritual, moral, social and cultural** development by:
 - a. developing awareness of the fundamental questions of life arising from human experiences, and how religious beliefs and practices can relate to them;
 - b. responding to the fundamental questions of life in the light of their experience and with reference to religious beliefs and practices; develop an awareness of fundamental life questions and respond according to personal experience, beliefs and values.
 - c. reflecting on their own beliefs, values and experiences in the light of their study;
 - d. expressing their own personal viewpoints in a thoughtful, reasoned and considerate way.
- Recognise the right of people to hold different beliefs within an ethnically and socially diverse society and to develop an understanding that all people are equal, regardless of age, race, gender, religious belief or ability.
- Enable every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness and to educate for dignity and respect encouraging all to live well together, as laid out in the **Church of England Statement of Entitlement** (Derek Holloway, School Character and SIAMS Development Manager, February 2019)
<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-02/RE%20Statement%20of%20Entitlement%20for%20Church%20Schools.pdf>

Withdrawal

This is the process that needs to be followed should a parent request that their child be removed from the religious education element of lessons.

The process that this policy outlines seeks to identify which particular aspects of the curriculum delivery the parents are objecting to so that provision can be made for only those areas. The process consists of several steps, all of which must be followed before any withdrawal will be agreed to by the school.

Stage 1 – school receives request to be withdrawn from RE subject. This request can be in one of the following formats: by the parent/guardian either by phone, note or letter.

Stage 2 – school responds within 14 days of receipt of the request with a written letter and copy of this policy. There will also be an invitation to a formal meeting.

Stage 3 - Formal meeting

- Meeting will be between the parent(s)/guardian, the Headteacher and/or a member of the Senior Management Team (SMT).
- The school will outline the general details about the legal rights and will issue copy of the guidance for Religious Education and Collective Worship from the GOV.UK website.
- Parents informed that this is a yearly process and that the application has to happen every year.
- Parents and Headteacher/SMT to look in detail at the course for the relevant year. The meeting will entail an in-depth look at the year's syllabus to identify which areas are felt to be acceptable areas for the student to be opted out.
- The school requests that to avoid any misunderstanding it is useful to discuss the following during the meeting:
 - the religious issues about which the parent would object to his or her child being taught;
 - that during the times of withdrawal the student must be completing work; the subject of which will be broadly focused on morals and values.
 - if the work is not completed to a satisfactory standard then normal school policies will apply.
 - the student will, for those lessons that have been identified, have to work on their own but will be supervised in another area of the school.
 - parents to go away and decide if they wish to proceed.

Stage 4 – If parent's wish to continue with their application for the withdrawal of their child, they must formally write to the Headteacher, including a signed copy of the policy below which identifies their rights and responsibilities under this policy. Once the written application has been received the appropriate actions will be taken for the agreed lessons.

Stage 5 – Parliamentary records show that the right to withdrawal is intended as a conscience clause and therefore the school requests that for the period of withdrawal parents set appropriate work that supports their own family's beliefs and philosophy.

Legal Requirements

The legal requirements for RE can be found [here](#).

The allocation of teaching time is in line with the current BANES and Somerset guidelines:

EYFS – 36 hours per year

KS1 – 36 hours per year

KS2 – 45 hours per year

KS3 – 45 hours per year

KS4 – 40 hours per year

KS5 – in full-time education at community and voluntary controlled schools - 10 hours per year

Content

Although MNSP has produced long term progression for RE and knowledge organisers based on the latest Somerset AMV Syllabus, content for religious education will vary from school to school. As well as using planning from the Somerset syllabus, teachers will also be referring to and using resources from Understanding Christianity and Discovery RE. All schools will teach Christianity and at least one other religion in KS1. In KS2, all schools will teach Christianity and at least three other religions. All children will experience non-theist viewpoints, e.g. Humanism, alongside Christianity and other religious views.

Assessment

Through questioning and retrieval methods, POP Tasks and other activities, such as discussions with pupils, marking of written work and observations, staff will continually find out about their pupils' achievements in RE. Progress should be recorded to inform future planning. Individual pupil's progress will be tracked throughout the year and analysed regularly.

To be read in conjunction with these other policies:

- Equal opportunities
- Assessment and marking
- Behaviour/Anti-bullying
- Collective worship
- Equality and inclusion
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Relationships and Sex Education policy
- SEND
- SMSC