

Holden Clough School RE Curriculum

At Holden Clough, we have selected to follow the Tameside Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education (2021 - 2027).

The agreed syllabus requires that all pupils learn from Christianity in each Key Stage. In addition, pupils will learn from the principal religions represented in the UK, in line with the law. These are Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism and Judaism. An overview of the Agreed Syllabus is provided below.

The principal aim of RE is to engage pupils in systematic enquiry into significant human questions which religion and worldviews address, so that they can develop the understanding and skills needed to appreciate and appraise varied responses to these questions, as well as develop responses of their own.

Religious traditions are studied in depth as follows:

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| Schools should consider the pupils they serve in deciding whether to go beyond the minimum entitlements to learning about religions, which are that pupils should learn from: | |
| Age 4-5s RECEPTION | Children will encounter Christianity and other faiths, as part of their growing sense of self, their own community and their place within it. |
| Age 5 – 7s KEY STAGE 1 | Christians and Muslims or Jewish people. |
| Age 7 – 11s KEY STAGE 2 | Christians, Muslims, Sikhs and Buddhist people. |

Withdrawal from RE

Parents may withdraw their children from RE lessons or any part of the RE curriculum and the school has a duty to supervise them, though not to provide additional teaching or to incur extra cost. Where the pupil has been withdrawn, the law provides for alternative arrangements to be made for RE of the kind the parents want the pupil to receive. These arrangements will be made by the parents;- the school is not expected to make these arrangements. This RE could be provided at the school in question, or by another school in the locality. If neither approach is practicable, the pupil may receive external RE teaching as long as the withdrawal does not significantly impact on the child's attendance.

The statutory basis of the agreed syllabus

Religious Education is, by law, locally determined and the syllabus is agreed by an Agreed Syllabus (AS) Conference. The AS document is the basis on which all work in RE should be planned in Manchester, Salford, Stockport, Tameside and Trafford's community and voluntary controlled schools. It is a requirement on schools and governing bodies to ensure that all learners gain their statutory entitlement to RE throughout all years of compulsory education. This has been part of statute since 1944, it was reinforced in the 1988 Education Reform Act and it remains so today. The requirement to teach RE does not apply to nursery classes but does to those pupils of statutory school age.

Collective Worship is not part of the taught curriculum and cannot be considered as part of the recommended time for teaching RE.

RE does not seek to convert or urge a particular religion or belief on pupils.

School Leaders' responsibilities

It is the Headteacher's duty to ensure that:

- RE is provided in accordance with the Agreed Syllabus for all pupils at the school;
- parent's receive an annual report on their child/ren's progress in RE;
- requests from parents for the withdrawal of their child/ren from RE are responded to, and alternative arrangements are made, so long as it does not incur any additional cost to the school or the local authority.

The Governing Body is responsible for ensuring that:

- RE is included in the curriculum;
- sufficient time and resources are devoted to RE to enable the school to meet its legal obligations and deliver an RE curriculum of quality.

Legal requirements: What does the legislation in England say?

The national curriculum states the legal requirement that:

'Every state-funded school must offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly based, and which:

- **promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils; and**
- **prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.**

Although there is not a National Curriculum for RE, all maintained schools must follow the National Curriculum requirements to teach a broad and balanced curriculum, which includes RE. All maintained schools therefore have a statutory duty to teach RE. Academies and free schools are contractually required through the terms of their funding agreement to make provision for the teaching of RE. Further information concerning RE in academies and free schools is given below.

The RE curriculum is determined by the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE), which is responsible for producing the locally agreed syllabus for RE. Agreed Syllabuses used in schools (maintained or academy), which are not designated with a religious character must 'reflect 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 represented in Great Britain'. Schools with a religious designation may prioritise one religion in their RE curriculum, but all schools must recognise diverse religions and systems of belief in the UK both locally and nationally.

In brief, legislation requires that:

- in maintained community, foundation or voluntary schools without a religious character, RE is taught in accordance with the local Agreed Syllabus;
- academies and free schools must teach RE within the requirements for a locally agreed syllabus, set out in section 375 (3) of the Education Act 1996 and paragraph (5) of Schedule 19 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The requirements are that a syllabus must 'reflect 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 represented in Great Britain';
- for foundation and voluntary controlled schools with a religious character, RE must be taught according to the Agreed Syllabus unless, parents request RE in accordance with the trust deed of the school; and
- in voluntary aided schools RE must be taught in accordance with the trust deed.

RE must be included in the curriculum for all registered pupils, including all pupils in reception classes and sixth form, but excluding:

- pupils in nursery schools or nursery classes in primary schools;
- any person aged nineteen or above for whom further education is being provided at school; and
- any person over compulsory school age who is receiving part-time education.