



RE and the law

RE legal requirements: what does the legislation in England say?

- RE is for all pupils
- Every pupil has a legal entitlement to RE.
- RE is a necessary part of a 'broad and balanced curriculum' and must be provided for all registered pupils in state funded schools in England unless withdrawn by their parents (or withdrawing themselves if they are aged 18 or over).
- This requirement does not apply for children below compulsory school age (although there are many examples of good practice of RE in younger classes, including here at Gotham Primary).
- The 'basic' school curriculum includes the National Curriculum, RE, and relationships and sex education.

RE is locally determined, not nationally

- A locally agreed syllabus is a statutory syllabus for RE recommended by an agreed syllabus conference for adoption by a local authority.
- Local authority maintained schools without a religious character must follow the locally agreed syllabus.

RE is multifaith, and recognises the place of Christianity and the other principal religions in the UK. Non-religious worldviews are included.

- The RE curriculum drawn up by a SACRE or used by an academy or free school, 'shall 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'.
- Contemporary guidance from the government makes clear that the breadth of RE will include the six principal religions in the UK and non-religious worldviews (Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism and Sikhism.)

As education policy changes, the legal requirement for RE for all registered pupils remains unchanged. RE is an entitlement for all pupils on the roll of every school, unless they have been withdrawn by their parents from RE.

Withdrawal

We note the Human Right of parents to withdraw their children from RE and of teachers to withdraw from teaching the subject. We aim to provide an open curriculum which can be taught to all pupils, by all staff. We teach, and pupils learn, about religions and worldviews. There is no element of religious instruction. Teachers are asked to refer to the head teacher any questions from parents about withdrawals. Requests for full or partial withdrawal from RE should be made in writing to the head teacher and a record kept of them. Parents who wish to withdraw their children from RE are obliged to provide their own alternative RE teaching.