



RE & Collective Worship

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An academy within:



“Learning together, to be the best we can be”



1. Scope

This policy applies to Heatherwood School and is designed to support the school in ensuring that their provision for Religious Education and Collective Worship is in line with statutory guidance and the requirements of their funding agreements.

2. Ethos

- 2.1. All pupils at Heatherwood School are entitled to a programme of Religious Education which meets their needs and enables them to make progress in learning. This is delivered in line with the Local Authority's Agreed Syllabus. Our intention is that Religious Education at Heatherwood should explore authentic and central concepts from religions on the basis of what will connect with pupils' experiences and enable them to respond whilst being sufficiently challenging and aspirational.

3. The legal framework

- 3.1. Government Guidance - [Religious education \(RE\) and collective worship in academies and free schools](#)
- 3.2. Under the terms of their funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education, all academies have to provide RE for all their pupils, except for those whose parents exercise the right of withdrawal. 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.
- 3.3. Funding Agreement – please see each school's supplementary funding agreement which can be found on the [Nexus website](#).
- 3.4. Heatherwood School, where practical must provide for the teaching of religious education and for acts of collective worship. (School's Supplementary funding agreement, para 2.HH).



a) Provision must be made for religious education to be given to all pupils at Heatherwood School in accordance with the requirements for agreed syllabuses in section 375(3) of the Education Act 1996 and paragraph 2(5) of Schedule 19 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

b) Heatherwood School must comply with the requirements of regulation 5A of the Education (Special Educational Needs) (England) (Consolidation) Regulations 2001 as if it were a maintained school.

(School's Supplementary funding agreement, para 2.II)

3.5. Heatherwood School must comply with regulation 5A of the Education (Special Educational Needs) (England) (Consolidation) Regulations 2001 as if the Academy were a community or foundation special school, and as if references to "Religious Education" and to "Religious Worship" in that section were references to religious education and religious worship provided by the Academy in accordance with clause 2. II.

(School's Supplementary funding agreement, para 2.JJ)

Education Act 1996

3.6.(3) Every agreed syllabus shall reflect the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain.
section 375(3) of the Education Act 1996.

The Agreed Syllabus

3.7. An agreed syllabus is a religious education syllabus that is designed by a local authority's Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC). The syllabus, like the provision for RE in academies, must reflect that the religious traditions in Great Britain are, in the main, Christian while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principle religions represented in Great Britain.

3.8. The Agreed Syllabus applies to pupils with SEND 'as far as it is practicable'.

Collective Worship

3.9. Heatherwood School follows paragraphs 50 to 88 of the Department for Education's [guidance on collective worship in schools](#). The main points of this are detailed below:

- Each pupil (up to the age of 19) must take part in a daily act of collective worship unless they have been withdrawn by their parents, or if in the sixth form, they have decided to withdraw themselves.



- In accordance with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, Heatherwood School provides 'collective worship that is wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. Other religious backgrounds represented in the school community are represented throughout the year, however the majority of provision is broadly Christian.

4. Context and Curriculum

Curriculum Provision

- 4.1. Heatherwood School is aware of the religious make up of its pupils and therefore plans curriculum content which matches this so that pupils can see themselves in the taught content and are able to bring personal knowledge to their learning.
- 4.2. In special schools the legal requirement to provide Religious Education is varied by section 71(7) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998: special schools should provide RE 'so far as is practicable', with all children taking part unless withdrawn by their parents. It is also good practice to:
 - Take into account the needs of their pupils when planning the RE curriculum.
 - Adapt the RE curriculum to suit the needs of their pupils.

For example:

- Selecting aspects of RE that connect with the lives and experiences of learners appropriate to their abilities and understanding.
- Ensuring sensory learning strategies are implemented rather than discussion or written tasks.
- Supporting pupils to engage in religious learning through sensory engagement tasks relevant to their levels of understanding and development, in a way which is meaningful to them.
- Ensure a range of religious learning is delivered over the course of the year through engaging, interactive sessions.

Pre-Formal Curriculum

- 4.3. Most pupils at Heatherwood School will not be engaged in subject specific study and will be assessed using the Engagement Model. The Engagement Model celebrates the different abilities of pupils not engaged in subject specific study. This intention is always appropriate for RE. It enables the collection of qualitative information and evidence that should inform a teacher's assessment of their pupils' evidence of progress in the following areas:



- The effective use of their senses, including the use of both near and distant senses and the use of sensory integration.
- The application of physical (motor) skills to permit active participation in new experiences.
- States of emotional wellbeing to facilitate sustained motivation to learn.
- Communication and language skills to inform thought processes.

4.4. Pupils working at this level will still access the curriculum for Religious Education but will experience it through a more sensory approach.

School websites

4.5. Heatherwood School **should** publish:

- The content of the curriculum in each academic year for every subject, including mandatory subjects such as religious education (RE) – this applies even if it is taught as part of another subject or known by another name.
- Information to make parents and carers aware they have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of RE”

[What academies and further education colleges must or should publish online - DfE](#)

5. Collective Worship

"Collective worship in schools should aim to provide the opportunity for pupils to worship God, to consider spiritual and moral issues and to explore their own beliefs; to encourage participation and response, whether through active involvement in the presentation of worship or through listening to and joining in the worship offered; and to develop community spirit, promote a common ethos and shared values, and reinforce positive attitudes."

Paragraphs 50 to 88 of the Department for Education's [guidance on collective worship in schools](#)

- 5.1. Each pupil must take part in a daily act of collective worship unless they have been withdrawn by their parents, or if in the sixth form they have decided to withdraw themselves. The legislation for collective worship exists to enable pupils, wherever possible, to share a single act of collective worship, while ensuring that worship is appropriate for the pupils taking part. In special schools, this should be fulfilled as far as is reasonably practical and may take the form of 'Candle Time' or form time in classrooms where pupils collectively take time to reflect and review aspects of their learning through the school's SMSC curriculum.
- 5.2. Daily collective worship at Heatherwood school is in addition to regular whole school assemblies which are used for celebration of religious festivals, weekly



celebrations of achievement and collective worship in a larger, whole school group.

6. Roles and responsibilities

Trust/Governance

- 6.1. The Trust and/or local governors should ensure that Heatherwood School is meeting statutory duties in line with this policy and that provision is made for all pupils to engage in Religious Education and Collective Worship.

Headteachers

- 6.2. The Headteacher should ensure that there is an appropriate curriculum, including access to Collective Worship, in place for all pupils at the school. They are also responsible for making sure that they publish the required details about the RE curriculum and should also ensure that parents and carers are aware of their right to withdraw their children from Religious Education and Collective worship. The Headteacher should ensure that subject leaders have access to high quality CPD to support them in the leadership of their subject across the school and enable them to provide advice and guidance to other members of staff.

Subject Lead

- 6.3. The RE subject lead (or person with responsibility for the oversight of RE) should ensure that the agreed curriculum for RE is consistently delivered and should monitor the quality of the education provided with school leaders. They should offer support for staff delivering RE and Collective Worship and should access and provide CPD where required.

Class teachers

- 6.4. Class teachers are responsible for delivering high quality RE lessons and ensuring that pupils in their class are making progress. Class teachers are often the key people to talk to parents about their children's access to RE and should therefore be well informed about the legal requirements. Class teachers should be able to speak to the subject leader of the Headteacher where they are unsure of the provision made for pupils in their classes.

7. Quality assurance

External QA



- 7.1. Provision for RE and Collective Worship will be inspected through Ofsted's Education Inspection Framework. This may be through the inspection of the Quality of Education but will be considered in the inspection of Personal Development.

Trust QA

- 7.2. QA from the Trust will come through the work of the Executive Assurance Partners and Executive Regional Directors linked to the school and through the Trust's audit process. Aspects of Quality Assurance will be identified through the Collaborative School Improvement Framework and priorities may arise as part of the Annual Support and Challenge Board.

School QA

- 7.3. Heatherwood School has its own process for the internal quality assurance of RE and Collective Worship. This process celebrates the strength in provision and the quality of education that pupils receive and also outline the areas for development in the delivery of the subject.



Appendix A

Useful websites

RE Online – Festival Calendar

[Festival Calendar - RE: ONLINE \(reonline.org.uk\)](http://reonline.org.uk)

NATRE – National Association of Teachers for RE

[National Association of Teachers of Religious Education \(natre.org.uk\)](http://natre.org.uk)

RE Today

[RE Today supporting Religious Education in schools](http://re-today.org.uk)

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE):

Rotherham - [Committee details - Rotherham Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education \(SACRE\) - Rotherham Council](http://rotherham.gov.uk)

Sheffield - [SACRE | Christians and Sheffield Schools \(cass-su.org.uk\)](http://cass-su.org.uk)

Doncaster - [Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education \(SACRE\) - City of Doncaster Council](http://doncaster.gov.uk)

Nottinghamshire - [Nottinghamshire standing advisory council for religious education \(SACRE\) | Nottinghamshire County Council](http://nottinghamshire.gov.uk)

Department for education - [RE and collective worship in academies and free schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Big Ideas for RE - [Big Ideas for RE - Free Religious Education Curriculum for schools](http://bigideasforre.org.uk)