

Bilton School Religious Education Policy



Agreed by the Governing Body	Date: January 2021
Review Date	Date: January 2023
Review Schedule	Annual / <i>Biennial</i>
Person(s) Responsible	Headteacher/ WVB Subject Leader

Context:

Bilton School is a co-education Academy with more than 1000 pupils and we aim to teach an academically rigorous and inclusive Worldwide Views and Beliefs (WVB) subject in line with the whole school ethos of 'be the best you can be'.

Therefore, we deliver Religious Education in our WVB department, in-line with the Coventry & Warwickshire SACRE Agreed Syllabus 2017-2022. Bilton School (part of the Stowe Valley MAT) recognises the educational value of WVB in the school curriculum, as well as, the essential contribution WVB makes to the understanding and awareness of British Values; the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development across the school and the deepening of an individual's knowledge and understanding of cultural capital.

Legal requirements:

The National Curriculum states 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

Bilton School recognises that WVB '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' (Education Act (1996 Section 375 (3)) Schools Standards and Framework Act (1998, Schedule 19, para 5).

Families who send their children to this school are from a range of faith backgrounds, in addition there are children who are from non-religious backgrounds. Our school is committed to valuing the opinions, beliefs and practices of all and to showing sensitivity to all groups of people.

Purpose of Study:

At Bilton School we aim to achieve high quality WVB for all pupils. WVB teaching provides pupils with a systematic knowledge and understanding about Christianity, principal religions and worldviews which give life value. WVB aims to enable pupils to become religiously and theologically literate so they can engage in life in an increasingly diverse society. WVB assists them in gaining shared human understanding, developing personal identity and searching for meaning in the context of evaluating different viewpoints.

Leadership and Management:

The Lead for Worldwide Views & Beliefs manages this area of the curriculum in line with our job description for subject leaders.

This policy is reviewed on a biennial cycle to ensure it still represents the values and practice of the school.

Right of withdrawal:

Parents (or students who are over 18) have the right to withdraw their children either partly or wholly from WVB. It is our practice to talk to parents to ensure that they understand the aims and values of the WVB curriculum before complying with the right of withdrawal from WVB (*DfES Circular 1/94 para 44-49*). In addition, teachers have the right not to teach the subject. Our approach to WVB, however, has been constructed in the hope that parents and teachers will rarely, if ever, wish to exercise their right of withdrawal.