



# **Bilton School Religious Education Policy (Worldwide Views & Beliefs)**

Chair of Governors signature 

Headteacher's signature : *Jayne Delves*

Date approved by Governing body : January 2025

Date of next review : January 2026

Person responsible for overseeing the implementation: Siobhan Loydall



Stowe Valley Multi Academy Trust  
Registered Office: Bilton School, Lawford Lane, Bilton, Rugby CV22 7JT  
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1. Context
2. Legal Requirements
3. Purpose of Study
4. Leadership & Management
5. Time allocation
6. Explanation of the right to withdraw.
7. How often the policy is updated.
8. Who approves the policy.

### **1. Context:**

Bilton School has over 1000 pupils and is a co-education academy: Our belief to teach an academically rigorous and inclusive Worldwide Views & Beliefs subject is in line with the whole school ethos of 'be the best you can be'.

We deliver Religious Education in Worldwide Views and Beliefs lessons, in-line with the Coventry & Warwickshire SACRE Agreed Syllabus 2017-2022<sup>1</sup>. Bilton School recognises the educational value of Worldwide Views & Beliefs in the school curriculum, as well as the essential contribution Worldwide Views & Beliefs 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 individuals' knowledge and understanding of cultural capital.

### **2. 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 ...
- All state schools ... must teach religious education ... All schools must publish their curriculum by subject and academic year online'

Bilton School recognises that Worldwide Views & Beliefs '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

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<sup>1</sup> A new syllabus will be published by April/May 2024, a soft launch from September 2023, not expected to be in place until September 2024.

committed to valuing the opinions, beliefs and practices of all and to showing sensitivity to all groups of people.

### **3. Purpose of Study:**

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

### **4. 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 represents the values and practice of the school.

Staff are trained through relevant CPD sessions; monitoring, is consistently followed out through the year.

### **5. Time allocation**

As stipulated Bilton School deliver one hour a week is for KS3 and for 70 hours for KS4, which equates to 1 hour a week for 5 terms.

### **6. Right of withdrawal:**

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

### **7. How often the policy is updated**

Biannually and in accordance to any national changes in guidelines for this subject.

### **8. Who approves the policy**

Headteacher and Governors.