



# GIGGLESWICK SCHOOL

## Provision for Pupils with Particular Religious, Dietary, Language or Cultural Needs Policy

Lead Author(s)	Second Master, AH (Pastoral)
Reviewed by	Headmaster Head of the Prep School
Last review	August 2025
Review frequency	Annually
Next review	August 2026
Policy Type	Statutory (NMS)



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## **1 IDENTIFICATION OF NEED**

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Information relating to specific religious, cultural or medical dietary needs is provided by parents at the start of a pupil's time at Giggleswick School ("the School") via the joining forms and medical questionnaire submitted via the Parent Portal.

Any changes to a pupil's dietary requirement throughout their time at the School should be conveyed by parents, by email, directly to a pupil's Housemaster/mistress. This information is held centrally and is clearly identified on iSAMS (the School's Management Information System). The information is also sent independently to the Housemaster, Wellbeing Centre and the Catering Department once it has been reviewed and checked by the HM Office staff. Any member of staff taking a trip out of School can see the dietary requirements of pupils using iSAMS – reports can be produced so that data can be taken on such trips.

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## **2 PUPILS WITH RELIGIOUS NEEDS**

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The School is designated as one with a Church of England ethos but welcomes pupils of all faiths and beliefs. The full-time School Chaplain takes an active role in seeking to serve the welfare of all pupils and staff. He regularly visits each boarding house. He takes a weekly assembly in the Prep School that assists in fulfilling the School's aims in this area.

All Senior School pupils attend Chapel; there are staff, visiting speakers or pupil-led services, and Houses organise talks to the Senior School on a weekly rota. Additional optional opportunities for formal and informal worship are offered regularly.

All boarders normally attend Sunday Chapel and day pupils and their families are also welcome to attend. Special permission from the Second Master may be granted to pupils of other faiths who would prefer to attend suitable alternative worship on Sundays if it can be found. This must be a formal activity in a recognised place of worship, arranged through the Chaplain and with the consent of parents and Senior House Staff.

The School aims to provide the following:

- Teaching within the Religious Studies syllabus on Christianity and other major world religions. This is not exclusively the influence of Religious Studies and other departments have a role in developing understanding and mutual respect.
- The opportunity for pupils of different faiths to observe their religious commitments (including, for example, practical arrangements like packed meals during Ramadan that can be collected the evening before).
- A willingness to seek out and provide (within the constraints of the Giggleswick week) alternative arrangements for worship for individual members of faiths other than Christianity.

All pupils attend Chapel, but if this is a concern to parents or the pupil, there is an openness to discuss alternative arrangements.

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## **3 PUPILS WITH DIETARY NEEDS**

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The School works closely with its Catering Team (run by Holroyd Howe) to identify pupils with specific dietary needs or with food allergies or intolerances. The Catering Team maintains a list at all service points of pupils with food allergies.

For pupils in the Prep School and Mill House, staff identify pupils with specific dietary needs or food allergies/intolerances to the Catering Team. In the Senior School (Year 7 and above), pupils self-identify at the servery to a Holroyd Howe Allergy Champion. The Catering Team hold a list of pupils with specific needs, allergies or intolerances and any updates from

parents and guardians are processed by the Wellbeing Centre and the Catering Team informed. For pupils with severe allergies, the Wellbeing Centre agrees an individual risk assessment. All staff are made aware of pupils with severe allergies at INSET and the weekly Pastoral Bulletin has the pictures and details of all pupils with severe allergies.

The School aims to provide the following:

- Open and friendly consultations between individual pupils, parents and the Catering Manager to ensure that specific dietary needs are provided for.
- On-going monitoring and support from the Catering Department to ensure that requirements are met on a daily basis.
- A Food Committee where pupils can have an opportunity to discuss dietary needs.

For pupils who wish, there is a Halal meat option at meals. This is coordinated through Senior House Staff and the Catering Team.

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#### **4 PUPILS WITH LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL NEEDS (PLEASE ALSO SEE THE EAL POLICY)**

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The School ensures that international and EAL students have the opportunity to learn and make progress and have equal opportunities to access all parts of the curriculum. Teachers make reasonable linguistic adjustments (e.g. pre-teaching vocabulary, glossaries, visual scaffolds) and track EAL progress through routine assessment. The HIS and Director Studies closely monitor the progress of EAL students and it is reported to Governors.

The pupils are encouraged to have social interaction with English-speaking students and to integrate fully into school life. New international pupils are offered the opportunity to attend 'Welcome Camp' before the start of the school year so that they experience a gentle transition into life at the school, to which the majority of new international pupils attend.

The School values and celebrates bilingualism and multilingualism, as it broadens the mind and the understanding of different cultures. In school, the International Student Committee, led by the International Pupil Praeposter and supported by staff, organise and run international events for pupils of all age groups, which include workshops on food, festivals and other cultural interests within the student body. SHS are also encouraged to organise house nights with an international focus, such as St Nikolaus and Chinese New Year. For larger celebrations, the International Team also liaise with catering staff to celebrate festivals with national dishes. The Committee also deliver occasional talks and assemblies on significant cultural events in chapel.

There is one member of staff dedicated to managing pupil needs: the Head of International Students (who monitors student welfare needs, cultural integration, EAL teaching and learning strategies in the classroom and in house as well as supporting all staff with any linguistic or cultural issues that may arise and communication with parents and guardians. The HIS also delivers staff training on EAL strategies which have more recently focussed on use of digital tools in the classroom and how to best support and integrate EAL students in the classroom.

There is a senior pupil who leads the International Committee and who helps coordinate pupil voice among those pupils with particular cultural and language needs; they also help coordinate pupil events..

Information on religious belief, health and dietary needs is treated as special category data and shared only with staff who need to know, in line with the School **Privacy Notice**.

## **Linked Policies**

Boarding and Wellbeing Principles and Practice  
EAL Policy  
Provision of Medical Care Policy