

# RE Policy



**ST HILDA'S**  
CE HIGH SCHOOL

WISDOM  
HOPE  
COMMUNITY  
DIGNITY  
EQUALITY  
DIVERSITY

**Reviewed:** 16th October 2024

**Date for next review:** October 2025

**Member of staff responsible:** J Code, N Martin

**Religious Education is the ‘Core of the Core’ at St Hilda’s and supports through academic enquiry the Christian aims, values, and ethos of the school. The quote from Ephesians 2:20 underpins our mission statement and is expressed through it: We are the St Hilda’s family, with Jesus Christ as our cornerstone. Building on foundations of WISDOM, HOPE, COMMUNITY, DIGNITY, EQUALITY and DIVERSITY, we nurture and support one another to be our very best. We rejoice in our diversity and celebrate our many achievements.**

This policy should be taken and used as part of St Hilda’s Church of England School’s overall strategy and implemented within the context of our Mission Statement and Instrument of Government aims. As a Church of England School, we are distinctively Christian and accept and respect all members of our community as unique children of God, precious in His sight and of infinite worth. The aim of Religious Education in St Hilda’s is to enable students to develop an understanding of the spiritual dimension of life, to appreciate the relationship between religious belief and codes of behaviour and to examine the ways in which religious belief is expressed through symbol, ritual, forms of worship and festival. The aim is also to help children mature in relation to their own patterns of belief and behaviour through exploring religious beliefs and practices and related human experiences. All human beings are involved in acquiring and developing attitudes and behaviour patterns, having beliefs and acting on them is one of the most important features of the human species. The role of Religious Education within St Hilda’s, however, is one of education, not promotion of a particular religious tradition. Religious Education staff develop an open, critical and sympathetic approach to the subject. Religious Education lessons are not seen as an opportunity to instruct in a particular faith yet to embrace the traditions of all World Faiths including non faith.

The Religious Education department has a crucial contribution to make to the ethos of the school. The aim is for teaching and learning to take place in an atmosphere where all are valued, safe and able to contribute; where there are sound relationships between staff and students; where there is respect and dignity for all in an ordered and calm environment; where challenge and standards are high. Religious Education makes a significant contribution to multicultural education. It is a stated aim of St Hilda’s to encourage all students to acquire knowledge, understanding, tolerance and respect for the people and customs of cultures other than their own. We live in a culturally diverse society; the makeup of our school community reflects this, the Religious Education department openly encourages awareness and respect for all beliefs and ways of life. At St Hilda’s Religious Education is taught to all students as a discrete subject. The Key Stage 3 syllabus follows the guidelines laid down in the Diocesan Framework and assessment is based on the two attainments targets: Learning about Religion and Learning from Religion. All students sit a Religious Education GCSE examination at the end of year 11. GCSE students follow the AQA Full Course Specification A, which includes a study of the beliefs and teaching of Christianity and Islam, alongside study of the ethics and philosophy of these religions, in relation to current world affairs. At A Level students follow OCR Full Course Specification studying Christianity, Philosophy and Ethics sitting all three exams at the end of Year 13. In Year 12 and 13 all students participate in Core Re lessons based on the Liverpool Diocese Illuminating Pathways schemes of work. More information about our topics of study can be found on the Re page of this website.

## Right to Withdraw

At St Hilda's CE High School we expect that all families choosing the school will be in sympathy with the Christian ethos of our inclusive school community. Given that this is a Christian school, it is entirely appropriate that our worship rests heavily on the traditions of Christianity but the emphasis in the design is that all are invited and able to participate and none should feel the need to withdraw. It is extremely important to us that all members feel valued members of our school community.

However, we recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from Religious Education and worship on the grounds of conscience. The right to withdraw does not extend to other areas of the curriculum, this includes for example when spontaneous questions of a religious nature may be raised and discussed in other subjects such as science or history.

We would ask any parent considering withdrawal from Religious Education to contact the Headteacher to discuss any concerns or anxieties about the policy, provision and practice of Religious Education at St Hilda's CE High School.

If students are withdrawn from Religious Education, the school has a duty to supervise them, though not to provide additional teaching or to incur extra cost. Students will usually remain on the premises.

Further guidance regarding the right to withdraw can be found within Circular 1/94 <http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/r/non%20statutory%20guidance%20on%20collective%20worship.pdf>