

Executive Summary: What schools must do:

Essential Agreed Syllabus Requirements for RE

(Please refer to the detailed sections of the syllabus for complete guidance and requirements)

- All pupils on the school roll are entitled to receive Religious Education. This includes pupils in the Reception year and 16-19 year old students in school Sixth Forms.
- This syllabus is the legal basis for RE in Rotherham schools where it applies (see 'RE and the Law' ~ an appendix to the syllabus). Inspection will be based upon the implementation of this syllabus.
- Time for RE is strongly recommended to be 5% of curriculum time in Key Stages 1-4. SACRE expects schools to follow these time guidelines, in order to implement the syllabus, enable learning from Christianity and the principal religions in the UK as the law requires, and set good standards.
- It is a legal requirement for pupils to have opportunities to learn about the principal religions in the UK while they are at school. In Rotherham this means schools are to plan, as a minimum, to teach about:

KS1: Christianity + Judaism (some teaching about Islam can also be used)

KS2: Christianity + Islam + Hinduism

With regard to non-religious or secular life stances, an inclusive RE curriculum enables the study of these views, which is appropriate at each key stage. This study is built into our syllabus, and refers to Humanism as one visible example of non-religious worldviews. Other non-religious ways of life and worldviews are also appropriate for study.

- Schools must plan for assessment in RE: the syllabus provides outcomes for most pupils at 7, 11 and 14, and a planned progression approach to assessing pupils progress in order to establish and guide expectations. Schools must report to parents on pupils' attainment and progress in RE annually, as with other subjects.
- Schools must develop a scheme of work for RE. The Agreed Syllabus specifies succinct programmes of study for each key stage. Optional study units are provided for guidance, which schools may use to construct their RE schemes of work. These have been substantially revised and updated from those used over the years 2015-2020 in Rotherham.
- Schools will use this syllabus for the coming 5 years. The Agreed Syllabus, launched in 2021, is valid for 5 years.
- In meeting all these requirements, schools will find it helpful to consult the extensive guidance papers on issues for school RE, to support the statutory Agreed Syllabus. The guidance recognizes the need for schools to improve teachers' confidence with regard to teaching RE. The suite of online guidance materials is published with the syllabus, but may be updated during the lifetime of the syllabus.