



Religious Education and Right to Withdrawal Policy

Review cycle: Bi-annual

Approval level: Headteacher

Tier: 3

Staff responsible for review: Head of Social Sciences

Approved: November 2024

Date of next review: November 2026

X:\5. Whole School Documents\8. School Policies and Procedures\1. Approved policies

Context

- **Todmorden High School** delivers Religious Education (RE) in line with the Calderdale *Believing and Belonging Syllabus*.
- **Todmorden High School** recognises the education value of Religious Education in the school curriculum and we support a high number of students in the completion of the GCSE option.
- **Todmorden High School** also recognises the excellent contribution RE makes to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development across the school.

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.

DfE, *The National Curriculum in England: Framework Document*, September 2013, p.4

Breadth of RE: Todmorden High School recognises that RE '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). The breadth of RE is referred to in more detail in our curriculum documents, available on our website at <https://todhigh.co.uk/learning-resources/curriculum/>

Right of withdrawal: Parents (or students who are over 18) have the right to withdraw their children either partly or wholly from RE. In addition, teachers have the right not to teach the subject. Our approach to RE, however, has been constructed in the hope that parents and teachers will rarely, if ever, wish to exercise their right of withdrawal.