

Woodlands Secondary School	RE Policy	
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Date	Review Date	Author	Nominated Governors
November 2025	November 2026	Caroline Lowry	Headteacher approval
Statutory policy	Website	Source	Ratification date
Yes	Yes	Former Policy Luton Agreed Syllabus	2/11/2025

Introduction

Woodlands Secondary School is made up of staff and students who originate from many different nationalities, cultures and faith groups. As a school we aim to celebrate this diversity and offer a welcoming and inclusive environment for all our students, staff and families.

We believe that Religious Education (RE) provides an opportunity to celebrate and foster awareness of these differences within our school and the wider world. It is a subject that celebrates diversity and challenges stereotypes.

Legal Requirements

Section 10 of the Education (Special Schools) Regulations 1994 states:

Collective worship and religious education

10. Arrangements shall be made to secure that, so far as practicable, every pupil attending the school will attend daily collective worship and receive religious education, or will be withdrawn from attendance at such worship or from receiving such education, in accordance with the wishes of the parent.

There is no national guidance on what circumstances would mean this isn't practicable.

RE is a compulsory subject for all pupils in maintained schools and academies, except for pupils whose parents have formally requested their withdrawal from RE classes.

The responsibilities of the Governors and Headteacher

Governing bodies and Headteacher must ensure that

- RE is provided as part of the school's basic curriculum, following the locally agreed syllabus.
- RE contributes to the school's duty to promote community cohesion

Aims

By offering RE we aim to:

- Develop knowledge and understanding of major world religions and value systems found in Britain
- Develop an understanding of religious traditions and to appreciate the cultural differences in Britain today

- Develop and promote mutual respect and tolerance for other peoples' views and to celebrate the diversity in society
- Promote shared values and to challenge racism and discrimination
- Promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, social, mental and physical development of students and prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life
- Make an important contribution to the school's duty to promote community cohesion.
- offer students times of peace and reflection via sensory experiences

The RE syllabus

RE forms part of the basic curriculum for all state-funded primary and secondary schools up to the end of sixth form but unlike the content of other subjects, the RE content is not nationally defined.

Each local education authority is responsible for determining the syllabus for RE in its area. This means that the content and approach to teaching RE may vary between different regions in England.

Local education authorities are required to establish a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) to oversee the provision of RE in their area. SACRE includes representatives from religious groups, the local authority and teachers.

Maintained schools and voluntary-controlled schools must teach the agreed syllabus that has been proposed by their local SACRE.

Woodlands Secondary School follows the Luton Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education that was created by The Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) and adopted in September 2024.

The Luton Agreed Syllabus

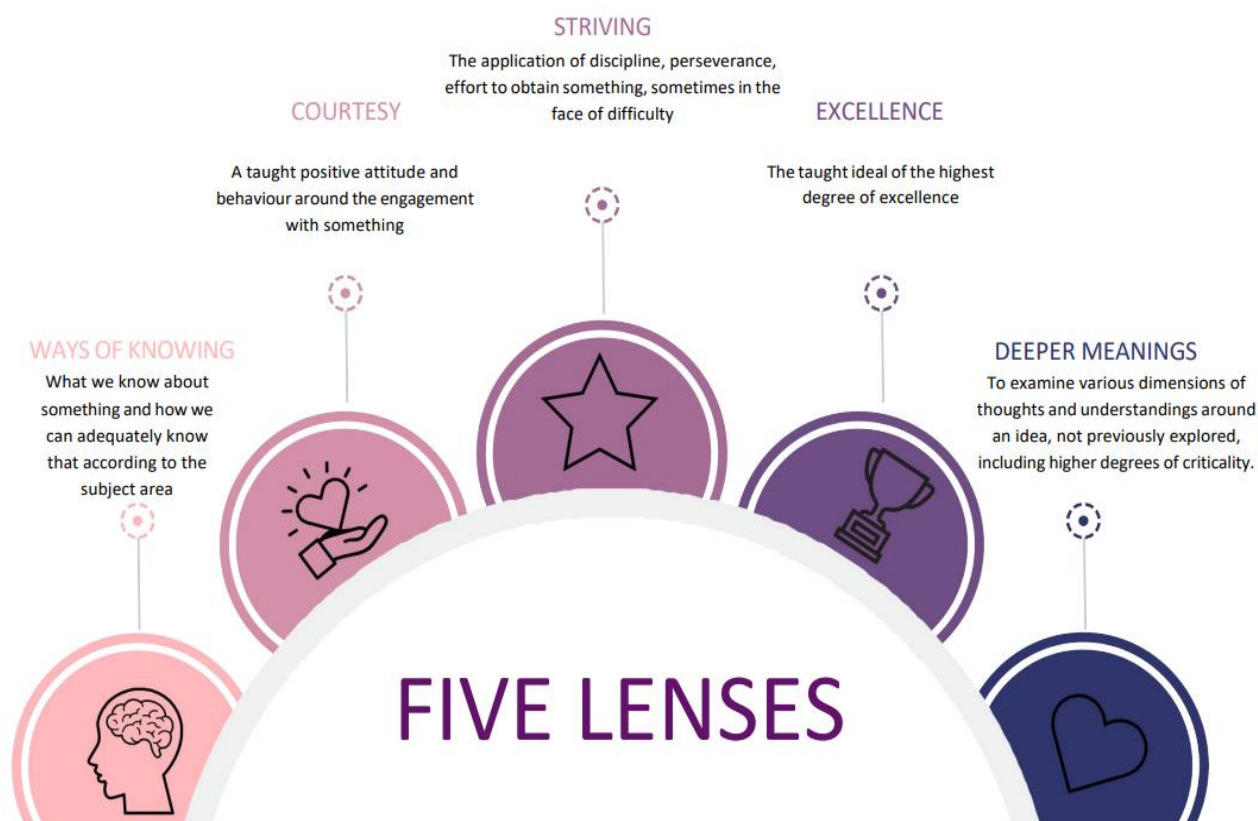
There are five themes.

These are based around understanding the relationship between religion and worldviews and:

1. God and faith
2. Humanity
3. Nature
4. Science and technology
5. Society

These five themes are broad enough to encompass all walks of life and cover the academic disciplines of Humanities, Social sciences, Natural sciences and Applied Sciences - all from the perspective of religion and worldviews.

Five 'lenses' have been introduced that can be used interchangeably against each theme. This aims to ensure that the themes are studied with a specific focus.



How have we adapted the syllabus to suit the needs of the student population at Woodlands Secondary School?

We believe that the creative ethos of the new Luton Syllabus, along with its theme and lens model, allows for rich exploration of RE through play, stories, and sensory experiences. The spiral curriculum aspect of this syllabus allows for topics to be explored again with greater depth and from the perspective of alternative lenses.

How we teach the syllabus

Right of withdrawal

Schools have to teach RE but parents can withdraw their children for all or part of the lessons. Pupils can choose to withdraw themselves once they are 18 years old.

If parents wish to withdraw their child from RE they should write to the Head Teacher expressing their thoughts and concerns. The Head Teacher will arrange to have a discussion with the parents.

References

The Religious Education Subject Report

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/subject-report-series-religious-education/deep-and-meaningful-the-religious-education-subject-report>

Luton SACRE RE Syllabus

https://www.luton.gov.uk/Education_and_learning/Lists/LutonDocuments/PDF/SACRE/Luton-SACRE-agreed-syllabus-June-2024.pdf

The Education (Special Schools) Regulations 1994

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/1994/652/schedule/made>

The National Curriculum – other compulsory subjects

<https://www.gov.uk/national-curriculum/other-compulsory-subjects#:~:text=Schools%20have%20to%20teach%20RE,academies%20can%20set%20their%20own.>

Religious Education in English Schools

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7adb3ce5274a34770e7953/DCSF-00114-2010.pdf>

Review

The policy will be reviewed annually.