



FUTURE TRUST

Religious Education Policy

DATE:



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This policy does not form part of the contract of employment and from time to time may be altered following consultation and negotiations with recognised Trade Unions. Any changes will be communicated to employees with reasonable notice. The policy may vary from time to time on a case by case basis in consultation and agreement with Union Representatives.

1. Context

Wickersley Partnership Trust comprises of five secondary schools and eight primary schools. From the October 2023 census, our academies have 735 students within them and an additional 109 in our F1 provision and they serve a diverse community culturally, ethnically and socially.

11.81% of the school population are classed as EAL and at least 20 different languages are spoken. We have a number of refugee families with a proportion of these children placed as part of the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme. These children come to our academies with no English and sometimes significant care needs. Some schools sit on the border between Rotherham and Sheffield with a proportion of children not coming from Trust catchment area or local authority. One school is out of Rotherham completely and is situated in Gainsborough.

The proportion of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals is currently at 35.5% (ranges between 6.49% and 59.28%). This figure has been impacted on in recent years due to the advent of universal free school meals in KS1 and also reflects the fluctuation of children 'on and off' benefits. The percentage of pupils who qualify for Pupil Premium funding within the Trust is 33.2% (ranges between 7.14% and 6.88%). These figures do not include Early Years funding. FSM data also no longer accurately represents the cohort of pupils from deprived areas or near the poverty line in our community.

Under the revised SEN code of practice, the percentage of children identified across the Trust as SEN was 23.31% in October 2023. 13.1% of these pupils 224 of 1710

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 the section on 'curriculum' below.

Right of withdrawal: Parents (or students who are over 18) have the right to withdraw their children either partly or wholly from RE on the grounds that they wish to provide their own RE. In addition, teachers have the right not to teach the subject. However, this does not apply to teachers who have been specifically employed to teach or lead RE. If a teacher wishes to withdraw from the teaching of RE, a letter requesting this must be submitted to the head of the school and its chair of governors. If a teacher withdraws from the teaching of RE, the school must still make provisions for the pupils to receive their entitlement to RE. 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.

Parents/guardians who wish to withdraw their child from RE should inform the school Head Teacher and the Director of RE in writing at their earliest convenience. The request must be from both parents/guardians and state if they wish to withdraw from the entire RE curriculum or part (topics on life after death only). It is the parents' (or students over 18) responsibility to provide their own work for RE lessons (e.g. schools should not provide additional literacy/numeracy intervention in this time). During the designated RE time students will be registered and monitored at a designated place on school site, but they won't be provided with one to one staff support during this time. Wickersley Partnership Trust recognises this right, but is pleased that it is almost never used by parents and students. Information about the right of withdrawal is provided on the Trust website. Publication of this policy.

Collective worship:



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