



Rawlins

Religious Studies, Christian Ethos and Collective Worship Policy

Rawlins, as a Church of England Academy, has at its heart a distinctive Christian ethos. Based on our Christian foundation and values we seek to promote a culture of developing every person and therefore every school policy is written from this perspective. With a commitment to learning and maturing in the context of the school vision, we lay particular emphasis on the Christian values of compassion, wisdom and endurance for both individuals and as a school community.

Signature:

Date: October 2023

Printed Name: Ian Marron

Position: Chair of Governors

Approved	October 2023
Next Review	September 2027
Approval By	Governors
Review Frequency	Three years or sooner if guidance changes

Religious Studies, Christian Ethos and Collective Worship

Context

As a Church of England Academy, Rawlins seeks to ensure a rich learning experience which cover social, moral, spiritual and cultural (SMSC) learning and provides young people with:

- High standards of personal behaviour;
- A positive caring attitude towards others irrespective of age, gender, race, religion, culture or sexual orientation;
- Opportunities for reflection, spiritual awareness and opportunities to explore Christian and other faiths and develop their own values and beliefs;
- An understanding of their own social and cultural traditions and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of other cultures;
- An understanding of their roles and responsibilities within a modern British society.

The importance of developing a strong moral code is a key part of this, firmly centred on the Academy's Christian ethos and an understanding of British Values.

All pupils in KS3 and 4 are taught Religious Studies (RS), going on to complete a GCSE in the subject. Pupils in our Sixth Form continue their provision through PSHCE, tutor time and out of the classroom opportunities.

Parents do have the right to withdraw their child from RS. Where parents are wishing to exercise this right, the Trust would first suggest that the parents meet with a designated member of the extended leadership team (usually the Head of RS) to discuss their concerns. If the matter cannot be resolved, parents need to apply to the Trust in writing to withdraw their child from RS lessons. The Senior Leadership team, in agreement with the Trust, will make arrangements with the Academy for the child(ren) to be supervised or engaged in another activity during this time.

Rawlins aims to ensure that:

- All academy stakeholders are aware of our Christian ethos and values;
- There is a consistent approach to spiritual reflection and collective worship;
- Pupils learn about religion in specific dedicated lessons and in all other curriculum areas;
- Pupils learn about Jesus Christ, the Christian faith and other faiths;
- Pupils explore their own beliefs and those of other people and develop respect and sensitivity;
- Pupils respond and react to God's World and the diversity of people in it through scripture, reason, tradition and experience;
- Pupils consider spiritual and moral values and develop a sense of community spirit.

Responsibilities

Staff:

- Follow and actively promote the Rawlins vision and values;
- Engage in daily spiritual reflection in line with the tutoring programme;
- Deliver the agreed curriculum content;
- Model and promote Christian like behaviour, showing care and respect for all people;
- Encourage pupils to take part in extra-curricular enrichment activities which encourage reflection or have a distinctly Christian aim (e.g. House activities, charities, community projects, listening lunches);
- Plan and deliver lessons, using illustrations and examples drawn from a wide range of cultural contexts;
- Act upon any observation of principles or practice which do not support the above.

Pupils

- Engage in daily spiritual reflection, values in action and assemblies during tutor time;
- Study the agreed curriculum content;
- Engage in learning about religion and think about their place in the world;
- Value themselves and others;

- Participate fully in curricular and extra-curricular learning;
- Understand right and wrong and choose right, in thought, word and deed;
- Understand their rights and responsibilities and respect the rights and views of others;
- Take responsibility for their own actions;
- Report actions which do not support the above.

Heads of Year

- Lead a tutor team to ensure daily spiritual reflection in line with the tutoring programme;
- Support tutors in promoting collective acts of worship;
- Support delivery of curriculum content where appropriate;
- Ensure the delivery of assemblies adheres to and promotes opportunity for spiritual reflection
- Use these weekly gatherings as a vehicle for collective worship and exploration of faith, SMSC and reflection.

Tutors

- Actively engage in an act of reflection on a daily basis; Model and promotion of Christian like behaviour, showing care and respect for all people;
- Deliver relevant curriculum content;
- Promote the spiritual moral and cultural development of pupils during tutor sessions.

Parents/carers

- Actively engage in whole school initiatives to develop SMSC, character and reflection within our community.

Senior Leaders

- Lead the Christian ethos and spiritual development of the academy; and lead daily collective worship;
- Ensure that the RE curriculum is sufficiently covered and delivered appropriately in line with expectations;
- Ensure insightful self-evaluation and a reflective community which engages in a continuous cycle of improvement, including the quality assurance of tutor time delivery;
- Engage internal and external stakeholders and other external agencies in continuous improvement to achieve the academy's values and aims;
- Respond to changes in the law and expectations of other related external agencies;
- Recognise and capitalise on existing skills to empower colleagues to bring about effective change in relation to Religious Studies, spiritual reflection and collective worship;
- Support staff to deliver Religious Studies.

Local Governing Board

- Support the Leadership Team in implementing this guidance;
- Ensure the appropriate delivery of Religious Education;
- Review this policy every 3 years (next due 2027).

Links to further Information and support

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/education-and-schools>

<http://www.christianvalues4schools.co.uk>