



**RAWLINS**  
A CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

**Developing Trust, Inspiring Hope, Building Success, Shaping the Future**

# Rawlins

## Religious Education (RE) Policy

Rawlins, as a Church of England Academy, is shaped by a Christian ethos that supports the flourishing of every learner. Within this context, Religious Studies is an academic subject that explores a wide range of religions and worldviews, not an act of worship. Guided by the Leicestershire Agreed Syllabus, our RE curriculum enables students to learn about diverse beliefs with curiosity, respect and critical thinking.

The syllabus, informed by experienced teachers and national experts, helps us provide engaging and rigorous RE that deepens students' understanding of both religious and non-religious worldviews. Through this learning, students gain valuable insight into the diversity of our society and develop the skills needed to reflect on their own perspectives. We are confident that this syllabus will continue to support excellent RE at Rawlins and across our wider community.

Approved	May 2026
Next Review	September 2029
Approval By	Local Governing Board
Review Frequency	Three years or sooner if guidance changes

# Religious Education

## Context

As a Church of England Academy, Rawlins aims to provide a rich and inclusive learning experience that supports students' social, moral, spiritual and cultural (SMSC) development. We seek to nurture:

- High standards of personal behaviour
- A positive and respectful attitude towards others, regardless of age, gender, race, religion, culture or sexual orientation
- Opportunities to explore a wide range of religious and non-religious worldviews and to develop personal values and beliefs
- An understanding of their own social and cultural traditions, alongside an appreciation of the diversity and richness of other cultures
- A clear sense of their roles and responsibilities within modern British society

Our commitment to a strong moral framework is rooted in the Academy's Christian ethos and an understanding of British Values.

All students in Key Stages 3 and 4 study **Religious Studies**, culminating in a GCSE qualification. Students in the Sixth Form continue their learning of RE through **Philosophy and Ethics** (A-level) and through their PSHCE & RE curriculum, delivered through lessons, tutor time and wider enrichment opportunities.

Parents/Carers and Students over the age of 18, have the right to withdraw from RS. Please see the legal framework and withdrawal guidance.

## Rawlins aims to ensure that:

- Students learn about religion and worldviews both in dedicated RS lessons and across the wider curriculum
- Students gain knowledge of Christianity, including the life and teachings of Jesus, alongside a broad range of other religious and non-religious worldviews
- Students explore their own beliefs and those of others, developing respect, curiosity and sensitivity
- Students engage thoughtfully with the diversity of people and perspectives in the world, drawing on a range of sources and forms of reasoning
- Students consider spiritual and moral values and develop a strong sense of community and shared responsibility

## National Statement of Entitlement for RE

Rawlins is committed to meeting - and exceeding - the National Statement of Entitlement for Religious Studies. The entitlement sets out the expectation that all students should receive high-quality RE that enables them to learn about a broad range of religions and worldviews, develop disciplinary knowledge, and engage critically with the complexity of belief in the modern world.

At Rawlins, students receive the nationally recommended minimum entitlement for RE. This curriculum time ensures that students can explore religious and non-religious worldviews in depth, develop strong analytical and evaluative skills, and engage meaningfully with the diverse beliefs and values that shape local, national and global communities.

Our commitment to this entitlement reflects our belief that high-quality Religious Studies is an essential part of a broad and balanced curriculum and plays a vital role in preparing students for life in a diverse society.

## Responsibilities

### Staff

- Follow and actively promote the Rawlins vision and values, including our commitment to high-quality teaching and learning
- Deliver the agreed curriculum content effectively and consistently
- Model professional behaviour rooted in respect, fairness and care for all students

- Encourage students to participate in enrichment activities that broaden learning and strengthen understanding of the wider world
- Plan and deliver lessons using examples and resources drawn from a wide range of cultural and global contexts
- Address any practices or behaviours that do not support high-quality teaching and learning

### **Students**

- Engage fully in lessons and take an active role in their learning
- Study the agreed curriculum content and contribute positively to classroom activities
- Learn about a wide range of religions and worldviews and consider how these shape human experience
- Value themselves and others, demonstrating respect and consideration in their interactions
- Participate in curricular and extra-curricular learning opportunities
- Understand right and wrong and act with integrity in their learning and behaviour
- Recognise their rights and responsibilities and respect the rights and views of others
- Take responsibility for their own actions and learning
- Report behaviours or actions that undermine a positive learning environment

### **Parents/carers**

- Support their child's learning by encouraging good study habits and engagement with homework
- Provide opportunities at home or in the community that broaden their child's understanding of different cultures, beliefs and worldviews
- Take an active interest in their child's progress across the curriculum and communicate with staff when needed
- Encourage participation in curricular and extra-curricular activities that enrich learning

### **Senior Leaders**

- Ensure that the Religious Studies curriculum is well-planned, sufficiently covered and delivered in line with agreed expectations
- Carry out effective self-evaluation and quality assurance to drive continuous improvement in teaching and learning
- Work with internal and external stakeholders, including relevant agencies, to support ongoing improvement and to meet statutory requirements
- Respond appropriately to changes in legislation or national expectations relating to Religious Studies and wider curriculum provision
- Recognise and utilise staff expertise to empower colleagues and support effective curriculum development
- Provide guidance, training and support to staff to ensure high-quality delivery of Religious Studies

### **Local Governing Board**

- Support the Leadership Team in implementing this guidance
- Ensure the appropriate delivery of Religious Studies
- Review this policy every three years (or sooner, if updated guidance requires it)

### **Useful Links**

[Leicestershire Agreed Syllabus](#) (due for review 2027 – curriculum will be updated accordingly).  
[National Statement of Entitlement](#) (both 2019 and 2026 versions available through this link).

### **Legal Framework and the Right to Withdraw from RE:**

Rawlins, a former Voluntary Controlled (VC) school/Academy, is directed by the funding agreement terms of the Secretary of State for Education, to ensure we provide all students with an RE provision which includes at least the same in breadth and ambition, as the locally agreed syllabus.

Whilst the law states the school must provide this RE provision, Parents/Carers have a legal right to withdraw their children from Religious Education lessons at any time. Whilst we believe RE develops a huge range of skills and is very helpful to students' understanding of themselves and others, requests for withdrawal (email request to the Principal) will be granted without delay. Following a withdrawal, we will offer parents an optional discussion with a Senior Leader to explore if any appropriate adaptations might be made.