



Our school system in England  
and how this effects SACRE

- Community/LA maintained
- Foundation and voluntary controlled
- Schools of a religious character
- Special schools
- Academies
- Free schools
- Grammar schools
- Private schools

Education stage	National Curriculum	School year group	Child's age
Secondary Education	Key Stage 4	11	15-16
		10	14-15
	Key Stage 3	9	13-14
		8	12-13
		7	11-12
Primary Education	Key Stage 2	6	10-11
		5	9-10
		4	8-9
		3	7-8
		Key Stage 1	2
	1		5-6
Early Years Foundation Stage	Early Years	Reception	4-5
			3-4



Religious Education in England is mandated by the **Education Act 1944**, as amended by the Education Reform Act 1988 and the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The provision of Religious Education is compulsory in all state-funded schools and those in sixth form unless withdrawn by their parents.



## **RIGHT OF WITHDRAWAL**

### **The right to withdraw from religious education and/or collective worship**

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from religious education and/or collective worship. From age 16, pupils can choose for themselves to opt out of collective worship if they wish. However, they cannot opt out of receiving religious education without parental consent until they are 18.

### Community/ LA maintained schools

RE must be taught according to the locally agreed syllabus adopted by the LA by which the school is maintained.

### Academies and Free Schools

All academies and free schools are required, through their funding agreements, to teach RE. For academies without a religious character, this will usually be the locally agreed syllabus.

## Voluntary Controlled Schools (VC)

Foundation and voluntary-controlled schools with a religious character: RE provision in foundation and voluntary-controlled schools with a religious character is to be provided in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus. However, where the parent of any pupil at the school requests that RE is provided in accordance with provisions of the trust deed relating to the school (or, where there is no provision in the trust deed, in accordance with the religion or denomination mentioned in the order designating the school as having a religious character), then the governors must make arrangements for securing that RE is provided to the pupil in accordance with the relevant religion for up to two periods a week unless they are satisfied that there are special circumstances which would make it unreasonable to do so.

## Voluntary Aided Schools (VA)

Voluntary-aided schools with a religious character: In these schools RE is to be determined by the governors and in accordance with the provisions of the trust deed relating to the school or, where there is no provision in the trust deed, with the religion or denomination mentioned in the order designating the school as having a religious character. However, where parents prefer their children to receive RE in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus, and they cannot reasonably or conveniently send their children to a school where the syllabus is in use, then the governing body must make arrangements for RE to be provided to the children within the school in accordance with the locally agreed syllabus unless they are satisfied that there are special circumstances which would make it unreasonable to do so. If the LA is satisfied that the governing body is unwilling to make such arrangements, the LA must make them instead.

All academies, free schools and maintained schools, Ofsted will inspect RE and Collective Worship

In a voluntary controlled school designated as having a religious character, Ofsted will inspect RE but not collective worship (that comes under section 48 /SIAM's)

Other schools with a religious character, like a VA school will be inspected by processes such as SIAMs or as stated in their funding agreements.

Inspectors may, however, gather evidence from anywhere relevant (including RE lessons and assemblies) to evaluate pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural education, personal development and/or behaviour and attitudes. The fact that the school has been designated as having a religious character must be referenced in the 'information about this school' section of the inspection report.

Ofsted will check that section 48 inspections have taken place and will comment on this in the report. They will look at reports but not comment on any outcomes.







All schools in the state sector must show their curriculum content on their website in some form.



Governing bodies and headteachers in all state schools must ensure that provision is made for RE for all pupils, unless they are withdrawn by their parents.



Religious  
education in  
English schools:  
Non-statutory  
guidance 2010

