



Wye School
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

Acts of Worship Policy

Review Timetable

The Policy will be reviewed every two years, as set out below:	
Policy reviewed centrally	n/a
Policy tailored by individual schools	April 2024
Policy ratified by Local Governing Bodies	May 2024
Renewal Date	May 2026
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Wye School: Acts of Worship / Religious Studies

In law all maintained schools including academies and free schools in England must provide religious education and collective worship for all pupils and promote their spiritual, moral and cultural development. Funding agreements for free schools specify that they should follow local agreed RE syllabuses, which reflect the fact that religious traditions in England are in the main Christian whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of other principal religions. Collective worship must be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character, though not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination. Wye School does not have any links to a specific religion or religious denomination. Wye School is part of a traditional Kent village and as such will from time to time participate in events with the local Church of England church, such as Remembrance ceremonies or carol services. Such participation will be done in a way that includes and honours multi-faith and secular traditions and perspectives.

In line with other United Learning schools, Wye School respects the statutory right of parents to withdraw their child/ren from acts of worship and / or religion lessons.

1. Principles

1.1 While the Christian faith is the majority culture with historical roots in Britain, Wye School also acknowledges our multi-faith and multi-cultural society. We honour and respect the position of those of other faiths and traditions and welcome the contribution that they bring. In this way, Wye School ensures that assemblies, worship and lessons are fully inclusive.

1.2 Assembling for collective worship provides opportunities for students to gather together to underpin the ethos of Wye School and to be 'members one of another' as a community. Assemblies are a focal point for students and staff to share beliefs, values, moral codes and community ethos and to provide an opportunity for them to explore the spiritual dimension of their lives.

1.3 In Wye School, the act of worship and the teaching of RE gives students the opportunity to:

- a) Consider their own self-worth.
- b) Respect faiths other than their own.
- c) Develop a positive approach to life.
- d) Understand the importance of their own set of values and those of others.
- e) Respond to personal, local, national and international issues with a community spirit.
- f) Care about others.
- g) Strengthen the corporate identity of Wye School.

1.4 In helping students to gain opportunities for personal reflection, Wye School will seek to provide places of quiet that can be accessed during the day.

2 The Legal Position

2.1 Wye School is required to respect the statutory rights of parents to withdraw their child as outlined in the Education Act 1993. However, we explain clearly to parents at the point at which they join the school that participation in worship and Religious Studies lessons is strongly encouraged.

3 Responding to requests

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of religious education.

3.1 In responding to requests for withdrawal from acts of collective worship and from Religious Studies, the following will happen:

- (a) The Principal or his delegate will arrange to meet with/telephone parents and the student to discuss the issues of concern.
- (b) Parents may be invited to join an assembly or Religious Studies class so that they have first-hand knowledge of what happens.
- (c) Some compromises may be possible whereby students are able to be included in the activity for some of the time or for some part of the activity.
- (d) Where parents continue to request withdrawal, Wye School will provide a suitable alternative activity for the child but this is unlikely to be an alternative lesson due to staffing and timetable constraints.
- (e) No matter what, Wye School will seek to ensure that the child feels fully included within the community of the school.

3.2 Where parents make such a request, Wye School will ask for that request in writing and arrange for the request to be reviewed at least annually.