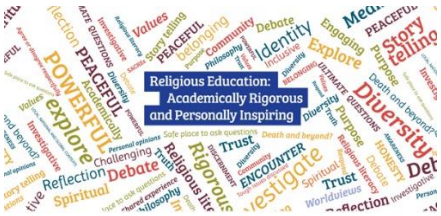

RE Curriculum

RE is for all pupils and every pupil is legally entitled to Religious Education as part of a 'broad and balanced' curriculum. The basic premise of the 2002 Education Act is that a school will provide RE for all its pupils as part of the basic curriculum.

The RE curriculum is determined locally not nationally and we use the Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus for RE 2017-2022 (now extended to 2024).

Religious Education is vital in the modern world in order to promote the British Values of tolerance and respect, individual liberty and democracy. RE lessons take account of world faiths and non-religious views so that children can learn about, and learn from, religious traditions without being inducted into those traditions.

The RE curriculum 'Shall reflect that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, while taking account of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain'. Contemporary guidance from the Government makes clear that the breadth of RE will include the six principal religions of the UK and non-religious worldviews.

Parental right of withdrawal from RE

NATRE (National Association of Teachers of Religious Education) states that this was first granted in 1944 when RE was called 'Religious Instruction' and carried with it connotations of induction into the Christian faith. RE is very different now – open, broad and exploring a range of religious and non-religious worldviews. In the UK, parents still have a right to withdraw their children from RE on the grounds that they wish to provide their own RE. This provision will be the parents' responsibility.

At Castle Hill, we believe inclusive RE is essential to prepare our pupils to live in the modern world and to be tolerant, understanding and inclusive global citizens. We therefore strongly discourage selective withdrawal from RE.

If you are considering withdrawing your child from RE, we ask that you arrange a meeting with the headteacher in the first instance to arrange a discussion so that we can try to understand the basis for the request.

If you still wish to withdraw your child from all, or part of, the RE curriculum, then we request that you submit a letter to the headteacher stating these wishes. Parents do not have to give an explanation for the withdrawal of their child from RE.

If a pupil is withdrawn from RE, the school has a duty of care to look after your child, but we do not have to provide alternative education. This time should not incur extra cost to the school, or be used for other curriculum areas. Your child will be supervised in another classroom during this time.