

Royal Greenwich  
**Agreed Syllabus for Religious  
Education 2019-24**

Key Stage 4  
Agreed Syllabus



## Key Stage 4

In line with other curriculum subjects most schools designate Key Stage 4 as Years 9-11. RE is a statutory requirement at KS4 under the Education Act 1996. Schools in the local authority will need to provide an appropriate course for this key stage with a minimum requirement of 36 hours taught RE. It is expected that all students should have an opportunity to follow an approved qualification in religious education.

Within the Royal Borough of Greenwich there are a range of cultures, languages and religions which are explored in Key Stage 3. In Key Stage 4 students should be given opportunities to build on this prior learning through exploring, analysing and interpreting a wide range of religious and ethical issues: the ways spirituality and religion are expressed in philosophy, ethics, science and the Arts. Students should be encouraged to debate religious and ethical questions with increasing independence and confidence and develop their own values, beliefs and attitudes in the light of what they have learnt.

Students should develop an understanding of how beliefs, values and concepts are exemplified through the elements of religion and secular world views. Students should also compare the teachings of religions on key moral and metaphysical questions and consider these beliefs in a pluralistic society as they gain a greater understanding of how religions and beliefs contribute to community cohesion and recognise the various perceptions people have regarding the role of religion in the world.

Teachers will want to explore the local national and global contexts in relation to Religious Education; exploring religious freedom and issues for faith in current affairs. They will ensure the faiths represented in the Royal Borough of Greenwich are explored in relation to the themes and questions in religious education.

In offering an opportunity for students to follow an accredited examination course schools will choose from 4 awarding body specifications. These awarding bodies offering both full and short courses at GCSE. Full details of these courses and teaching and learning resources are available on their websites:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/>

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html>

<https://www.eduqas.co.uk/>

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/>

### Key Stage 4 Teaching Options in the Royal Borough of Greenwich

The Royal Borough of Greenwich Agreed Syllabus offers *three* options for schools with the minimum requirement being for all students to receive 36 hours of taught RE.

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Full Course GCSE RE or Entry Level Certificate as a compulsory subject for all students. In line with other GCSE subjects schools should provide between 120 and 140 hours of specialist teaching for this option	Short Course GCSE or Entry Level Certificate as a compulsory subject for all students with or without full course GCSE RE as an option. Schools should allocate between 60 and 70 hours specialist teaching for this qualification	36 hours of taught RE for all students. Schools may offer a GCSE in RE as an option subject on the open P8 basket in addition to this and allocating the requisite teaching time as prescribed by their awarding body

For schools following Option 3 these key questions teachers could be developed into separate units or integrated thematically:

Do animals have rights? [stewardship, creation, dominion]	Is it ethical to lie? [free will, autonomy]	Is it ever right to go to war? [pacifism, nuclear war, love thy neighbour, just and unjust wars]
Is life sacred? [can we take lives, capital punishment, abortion, genocide, euthanasia]	Changes facing religion in the 21st century [secularisation, technology, female ministers, homosexuality, divorce civil partnerships, marriage in religious communities, contraception, sex before marriage ]	How does religion contribute to wealth and poverty? [charity work, concern for others, equality]

Teachers will ensure the religious content is delivered whilst taking the opportunity to promote the British Values of mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith