



# Ashfield Girls' High School



**“Each different. Each talented. All valued.”**

**Religious Education Curriculum and Collective  
Worship Provision, in addition to the Arrangements  
for Withdrawal Policy and Procedures**

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**Religious Education Curriculum and Collective Worship Provision, in addition to the Arrangements for Withdrawal Policy and Procedures**



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## **Executive Summary**

The Religious Education Curriculum and Collective Worship Provision, in addition to the Arrangements for Withdrawal Policy and Procedures provides the procedures for the school to implement the directives from the Department of Education (DE) Circular 2026/09



## **Section A – Aims of the Policy**

The first aim of the Religious Education Curriculum Provision and Collective Worship, in addition to the Arrangements for Withdrawal Policy and Procedures publication, is to provide details of the Religious Education Curriculum Provision and the planned Collective Worship across the academic year.

The second aim of the policy is to provide the procedures, in line with the DE circular 2026/09, to withdraw a pupil (wholly and / or partially) from Religious Education and / or Collective Worship.

The third aim of the policy is to provide a Point of Contact, to which all requests in relation to withdrawal should be communicated to.



## **Section B – Legislative Context, Guidance and Linked Policies**

The policy has been drafted and ratified to be congruent with the below publications;

- Article II of the Education (NI) Order 2006
- DE Circular Number 2026/09



## Section C - Policy and Procedures

### Curriculum Provision

Appendix 1 outlines the current Religious Education overview curriculum provision at KS3 in Ashfield Girls' High School. Appendix 1 highlights the topics to be taught in line with the Department of Education Core Syllabus for Religious Education publication for KS3.

CCEA GCSE Religious Education covers the Core Syllabus for Religious Education in KS4. A copy of the CCEA GCSE Religious Education syllabus can be found on the CCEA Website.

The Department of Education is planning to revise the Religious Education Core Syllabus for the 2026/27 academic year. Ashfield Girls' High School will work to implement any changes to the Core Syllabus in line with new guidance, within a timely and manageable timeframe, when received by the Department of Education.

Appendix 2 outlines the planned assembly rota and guest speakers.

### **Procedures for Withdrawal from Curriculum Provision Religious Education and / or collective worship; wholly or partially.**

Any parent wishing to exercise their right to withdraw their daughter from Religious Education and / or Collective Worship; (wholly or partially) should complete Appendix 3 (withdrawal form).

The withdrawal form (Appendix 3) should be forwarded directly to the Vice Principal for Curriculum; Mr McClintock, [pmcclintock029@c2kni.net](mailto:pmcclintock029@c2kni.net)

Any request for withdrawal will be acknowledged within 3 working days of receipt of the withdrawal form (Appendix 3)

Confirmation of the commencement of the alternative arrangements, which will be implemented within 5 working days of receipt of the withdrawal form (Appendix 3) will be forwarded by the Vice Principal for Curriculum.

The Point of Contact will maintain a confidential record of all withdrawal forms received. This data will be managed in line with the school Data Protection Policy and Schedule for the Disposal of Records.



**The alternative arrangements for pupils who are withdrawn from Religious Education; wholly or partially, are outlined below.**

- Pupils who have been withdrawn from Religious Education curriculum provision (timetabled classes) in KS3 will work on pre-planned Literacy / Numeracy learning activities. These activities have been prepared by the Literacy Co-ordinator and the Numeracy Co-ordinator. KS3 pupils will also be able to read their Accelerated Reading book.
- Pupils in both KS3 and KS4 will be registered in supervised study, which is located in the Learning Zone and is supervised by the Study Supervisor. It should be noted that the Study Supervisor will not provide 'teaching'.
- Pupils in KS3 will be responsible for attending supervised study in the Learning Zone and reporting to the Study Supervisor to ensure that they are marked present for the session. Pupils are also responsible for bringing their learning materials for each session (once given to the pupil by the Vice Principal).
- Conduct in the Learning Zone (supervised study) will be under the supervision of the Study Supervisor and will be monitored by the Vice Principal for Curriculum.
- It should be noted that given the short timeframe for policy implementation and the absence of any Department of Education funding to put in place alternative arrangements, the above arrangements will be monitored and reviewed regularly, until an established way of working is embedded.

**The alternative arrangements for pupils who are withdrawn from Collective Worship; wholly or partially, are outlined below.**

- Any pupil (KS3, KS4 or KS5) who has been withdrawn from Collective Worship should report to Ms Dunlop in room 318 on the day of their Collective Worship assembly. Ms Dunlop will take the AM register.

Assembly has many different learning objectives such as Addressing Bullying Assembly, Safer Internet Day Assembly, Celebrating Success Assembly, First Aid Assembly. These themes are not Collective Worship and are part of the wider pastoral care and preventative curriculum programme. Therefore, pupils who are withdrawn from Collective Worship will be expected to attend assembly, where Collective Worship is not part of the assembly (as identified on Appendix 2). The annual assembly rota will be published on the school website (and as Appendix 2 of this policy) and pupils who are withdrawn from Collective Worship should use this rota to identify which assembly is Collective Worship (go to Room 318) and which assembly is part of the Preventative Curriculum (attend assembly).



## **The Named Contact**

The named contact for pupil withdrawal from Religious Education and/or Collective Worship is the Vice Principal for Curriculum, Mr McClintock ([pmcclintock029@c2kni.net](mailto:pmcclintock029@c2kni.net))



## **Section D – Roles and Responsibilities**

### **Board of Governors**

The Board of Governors are responsible for ratifying the policy.

### **Principal**

The Principal is responsible for the operational implementation of the policy.

### **Vice Principal (Curriculum)**

The Vice Principal (Curriculum) is the point of contact for any withdrawal forms (Appendix 3), in addition to ensuring curriculum provision is in line with, current and future, DE guidelines.

### **Vice Principal (Pastoral)**

The Vice Principal (Pastoral) is responsible for organising and publishing the Assembly Rota (Appendix 2).

### **Head of Religious Education**

The Head of Religious Education is responsible for providing a curriculum overview document for KS3 (Appendix 1). In addition, the Head of Religious Education is responsible for organising visiting speakers and ensuring that they are identified on the Assembly Rota (Appendix 2).

### **Teachers of Religious Education**

Teachers of Religious Education are responsible for teaching curriculum provision in line with department requirements.

### **Parents / Carers**

Parents / Carers are responsible for making informed choices and communicating withdrawal forms (Appendix 3) to the point of contact. In addition, parent /carers are responsible for ensuring their daughter follows the alternative arrangements for withdrawal as outlined in this policy.

### **Pupils**

Pupils are responsible for knowing the arrangements when they are withdrawn from Religious Education classes and / or Collective Worship and following the requirements in place for alternative provision.



## **Section E – Consultation, Communication, Monitoring & Evaluation of the Policy**

There was no consultation with stakeholders in relation to this policy and procedures, due to the full consultation completed by the Department of Education. The policy and procedures are congruent with the Department of Education’s Circular 2026/09. The policy and procedures will be reviewed in line with publication of further guidance from DE. This policy is published on the school website.



## Religious Education – Curriculum Overview (2025/2026)

## Appendix 1

Week Beginning	Timetable Week	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
1 <sup>st</sup> September,2025	A	Why study RS?	Why study RS?	Why study RS?
8 <sup>th</sup> September,2025	B	Value of RS, careers and opportunities.	Person of Faith OT - Abraham	Geography of Palestine
15 <sup>th</sup> September,2025	A	What is the Bible? Opinions about the Bible.	God's covenant – promises	History of Palestine - Romans
22 <sup>nd</sup> September,2025	B	Bible Library Law Books – Torah	Abraham's Doubts - birth of Ishmael!	Religious groups today
29 <sup>th</sup> September,2025	A	Wisdom books	Birth of Isaac	Pharisees and Sadducees
6 <sup>th</sup> October,2025	B	Wycliffe /Gideons – good news for everyone	Sacrifice in Biblical times and today	Scribes and Zealots
13 <sup>th</sup> October, 2025	A	Tracking Tests	Esau and Jacob	Jesus' relationships with religious leaders
20 <sup>th</sup> October,2025	B	Harvest festival	Lessons from Abraham, Esau, and Jacob for today. Relationships.	Revision
27 <sup>th</sup> October,2025	Half-term	Half-term	Half-term	Half-term
3 <sup>rd</sup> November,2025	A	Christmas – Role of Mary	Judaism – introduction	Prejudice and Discrimination Parable of the Good Samaritan
10 <sup>th</sup> November,2025	B	Christmas – Role of Shepherds	Judaism – Key Beliefs and terms	
17 <sup>th</sup> November,2025	A	Christmas – Role of Wise men	Judaism – Synagogue and Torah	Parable of the Unforgiving Servant
24 <sup>th</sup> November, 2025	B	Advent and Christmas festival	Judaism – Shabbat	Lost Son
1 <sup>st</sup> December, 2025	A	School Exam Week	School Exam Week	School Exam Week.



Week Beginning	Timetable Week	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
8 <sup>th</sup> December, 2025	B	Feedback from assessment Introduction to Christian festivals	Feedback from assessment Introduction to Jewish festivals	Feedback from assessment Charities – Salvation Army Christmas appeal
15 <sup>th</sup> December, 2025	A	Making Christmas meaningful debate	Bar Mitzvah/Bat Mitzvah	Research charity that reaches out to the marginalised
22 <sup>nd</sup> December, 2025	B	Christmas Holidays	Christmas Holidays	Christmas Holidays
29 <sup>th</sup> December, 2025	A	Christmas Holidays	Christmas Holidays	Christmas Holidays
5 <sup>th</sup> Jan, 2026	B	Creation	Rosh Hashanah	Jesus encounters with others Jesus plus - Zacchaeus
12 <sup>th</sup> Jan, 2026	A	Uniqueness –made in the image of God	Passover	Jesus plus – woman at the well
19 <sup>th</sup> Jan, 2026	B	Fall of Adam and Eve	Festivals revision	Jesus and the woman caught in adultery
26 <sup>th</sup> Jan, 2026	A	Stewardship	Beliefs revision	Leprosy background – Leprosy mission
2 <sup>nd</sup> February, 2026	B	Fair Trade	Test	Is it possible to follow Jesus' teaching?
9 <sup>th</sup> February, 2026	Half-term	Half-term	Half-term	Half-term
16 <sup>th</sup> February, 2026	A	Test Introduction to St Patrick	Test Context and Birth of Moses	Test Easter – Holy Week
23 <sup>rd</sup> February, 2026	B	St Patrick	Call of Moses and Vocation	Palm Sunday
2 <sup>nd</sup> March, 2026	A	St Patrick	The Ten Plagues	Last Supper



Week beginning	Timetable	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
9 <sup>th</sup> March,2026	B	St Patrick	The final plagues and escape from Egypt – link to Passover	Arrest and Trials of Jesus
16 <sup>th</sup> March, 2026	A	St Patrick	Escape – Crossing the Red Sea	Death of Jesus
23 <sup>th</sup> March, 2026	B	What is a missionary?	Moses and Ten Commandments 1 – 4 Respect for God	Resurrection of Jesus
23 <sup>rd</sup> March,2026	A	Maud Kells and other modern missionaries	Moses and Ten Commandments 5-10 Respect for self and others	Lent and Easter festival
30 <sup>th</sup> March,2026	Easter	Easter	Easter	Easter
6 <sup>th</sup> April,2026	Easter	Easter	Easter	Easter
13 <sup>th</sup> April,2026	B	Miracles of Jesus	Ethics – Relationships	Islam
20 <sup>th</sup> April, 2026	A	Miracles of Jesus	Ethics – Equality	Islam
27 <sup>th</sup> April, 2026	B	Miracles of Jesus	Ethics – Life and Death	Islam
4 <sup>th</sup> May, 2026	A	Miracles today	Ethics – Making choices	Islam
11 <sup>th</sup> May, 2026	A	Miracles debate	Relevance of the Commandments for today	Islam
18 <sup>th</sup> May,2026	B	School Exam week	School Exam week	School Exam week
25 <sup>th</sup> May,2026	A	Church denominations	People of Faith – Martin Luther	Islam



1 <sup>st</sup> June, 2026	B	Church worship	People of faith – Martin Luther	War and Peace ethics
8 <sup>th</sup> June, 2026	A	Church in the community	People of faith - Martin Luther	Bible and Church teaching
15 <sup>th</sup> June, 2026	B	Pentecost	Charities project	Examples of Peace makers
22 <sup>nd</sup> June, 2026	A	Early Church	Charities project	Corrymeela
29 <sup>th</sup> June, 2026	B	Early Church	Presentations	Being a peacemaker – creative task



**Assembly – Summer Term 2026**

**Appendix 2**

Date	Led by	Year Group	Location	Theme
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Principal	Junior	Sports Hall	Success Assembly (Term 2)
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	Heads of Progress	Year 8 (Mon) Year 9 (Mon) Year 10 (Tues) Year 11 (Tues) Year 12 (Wed) Sixth Form (Wed)	Gym Sports Hall Gym Sports Hall Sports Hall Gym	Calm, Confident and Capable (Well-being when preparing for exams)
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Assistant Heads of Progress	Belmont Titanic Stormont Harland Victoria	Teams	Points means prizes
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Mrs Doak	Junior	Teams	Ready, set...revise!
<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May - KS3 Summer Examination week</b>				
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	Miss Cameron	Junior & Senior	Teams	Read On
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	RE Department	Junior & Senior	Teams	Collective Worship
11 <sup>th</sup> June	PE Department	Junior & Senior	Sports Hall	Sports Day rewards
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	VP Pastoral	Junior	Sports Hall	Summer safety and smart choices
W/B 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Principal	Junior	Sports Hall	Success Assembly (Term 3)



## Appendix 3

### Request for Withdrawal from Key Stage 3 Religious Education and / or Collective Worship (wholly or partially)

#### Section 1: Pupil Details

Name of Pupil: \_\_\_\_\_

Year Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Form Class: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Section 2: Parent / Carer Details

Name of Parent / Carer submitting this request: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to pupil: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred contact email: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred contact phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Section 3: Request for Withdrawal

(Please tick all that apply)

I request that my child be withdrawn from:

##### Religious Education

- All RE
- Specific RE topics/units (please specify):

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### Collective Worship

- All collective worship
- Specific elements of collective worship (please specify e.g. prayers hymns, liturgical acts, assembly, particular speakers):

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### Section 4: Start Date

I request that withdrawal arrangements begin:

Immediately

or

From (date): \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

### Section 5: Confirmation

By signing below, I confirm that I am exercising my statutory right to withdraw my child from Religious Education and/or collective worship (delete as appropriate) and understand that:

- I do not need to give reasons for this request;
- The school must implement this request promptly and without negotiation;
- This request will remain in place until I submit a written request to end or amend it.

Signature of parent / carer: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_



**Section 6: School Use Only (to be completed by the school)**

**Date received:** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**Acknowledgement issued:**

Yes - date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**Arrangements begin:** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**Alternative arrangements provided:**

**Recorded in confidential register:**

Yes - date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of staff member processing request:**

\_\_\_\_\_

# Challenging girls today; creating women of value in the future



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