

Information on Requests to Withdraw a Pupil from RE Lessons

Parents have the statutory right under Section 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 to request that their child/children be wholly or partly excused from:

- Religious Education (RE) lessons as part of the school's basic curriculum
- Acts of Collective Worship in schools

Parents are not required to provide a reason for the withdrawal request. However, before exercising this right, we strongly recommend discussing any concerns with a senior leader.

Important – Limitations to Withdrawal

- If pupils are withdrawn from RE, the school has a duty to supervise them but is not required to provide alternative teaching. Pupils may be asked to work in another area of the school.
- While parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE, it is important to note that pupils may still encounter religious content and themes in other parts of the National Curriculum, such as history or PSHE, where there is no right of withdrawal.
- Additionally, spontaneous questions or discussions about religion may arise during other subjects, as the school promotes community cohesion and helps pupils understand identity, diversity, feelings, and emotions within both religious and non-religious contexts.

Managing the Right of Withdrawal

- All withdrawal requests should be made in writing and addressed to the Headteacher, Mrs. Bana.
- Upon receiving a withdrawal request, the school must comply and excuse the pupil until the request is formally withdrawn.
- While not a legal requirement, it is considered good practice for the Headteacher to invite parents to discuss their written request.
- Pupils withdrawn from RE will generally remain on school premises where it is feasible and appropriate, but no additional teaching or costs will be incurred by the school.

(Reference: Section 71(3), School Standards and Framework Act 1998)