

Parental Rights of Withdrawal from Religious Education and Collective Worship

At our Church of England school, we respect the legal rights of parents to withdraw their children from collective worship and Religious Education (RE).

Collective Worship: Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship, a right established since the 1944 Education Act and reaffirmed in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. Collective worship in our school is distinctively Christian, in line with the tenets and practices of the Church of England. Parents wishing to exercise this right should discuss their preferences with the head teacher, including specific elements of worship they object to and the practical implications of withdrawal. The school will accommodate these requests, ensuring the child's education continues without disruption.

Religious Education: Parents can also withdraw their children from RE, a right established by the 1944 Education Act and confirmed in the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. RE in our school aims to contribute to the Christian character of the school while respecting the diverse beliefs of all students. Parents considering withdrawal should contact the head teacher to discuss their concerns and understand the RE syllabus. The school will ensure parents are fully informed about the content and objectives of the RE curriculum, allowing them to make an informed decision.

Managing Withdrawal: When parents request withdrawal, the school will respect this right and discuss arrangements to best accommodate the child's withdrawal. Schools have a duty to supervise withdrawn pupils but are not required to provide additional teaching or incur extra costs. Alternative arrangements for RE can be made, either within the school or at another location, if reasonably convenient. Outside arrangements are allowed as long as they do not interfere significantly with the pupil's attendance.

Promoting British Values: The school ensures that withdrawal requests do not hinder its responsibility to promote equality and fundamental British values. Respect for other faiths and beliefs is embedded throughout the curriculum and school ethos.