



# WITHDRAWAL FROM RELIGIOUS STUDY POLICY

Reviewed November 2025 in line with Government Guidelines  
Jordan Macrow, Assistant Headteacher

## Withdrawal from RS Policy

Parents have the right to withdraw their child or children in whole or in part from Religious Studies, which forms part of the school's basic curriculum. To exercise this right, parents are asked to write to the Headteacher informing them of their desire to exercise the right to withdrawal from RS. The Headteacher will invite parents into school to discuss their concerns, clarify the nature of the RS provided by the school and set out the options open to the parents as set out in education law.

### Alternatives to complete withdrawal

Before withdrawing their child completely from Religious Education, parents have the option to:

- arrange for the student to be withdrawn and receive alternative Religious Education on the school site if the school are able to provide it, e.g. taking part in a different RE class scheduled at that time which may be covering a different topic;
- arrange for the student to receive alternative Religious Education on the school site, provided by an external organisation, e.g. inviting a Pastor or faith representative in to work with the student, as long as this takes place during the timetabled RS session and does not disrupt the students' learning at other times during the school day;
- arrange for the student to attend a nearby establishment/school to receive Religious Education that better reflects the beliefs and values of the student/their parents, as long as this takes place during the timetabled RS session and does not disrupt the students' learning at other times during the school day.

None of these alternatives can be at the cost to the school or the local authority. The Curriculum Leader for Religious Studies has a responsibility to report back to the LA on all students withdrawn from RS and the alternative provision put in place, and so will need to regularly verify that work set by parents and completed by the students is of an appropriate nature.

Alternative provision can be put in place on a short or long-term basis e.g. for the duration of a topic being delivered by the school or for a specific period of time. If alternative provision begins to affect the learning of the student in other areas of their timetable, the school reserve the right to include students back into their Religious Education lessons. In such a case a letter will be sent home to parents advising them of this decision and a date given on when the child will be included back into the Religious Education provision of the school.

### Complete Withdrawal from Religious Education

In line with Leeds SACRE's recommendation, where a pupil is withdrawn from RE, where none of the above options are possible, school will provide supervision by an appropriate member of staff in a room outside of the RE department during their scheduled RE lesson. During that time, the student must complete work set by their parents (and approved by the Curriculum Leader) which will seek to further their knowledge and understanding of their/their parent's beliefs and values e.g. a research project on their values and beliefs and how they could be applied to a current world/community issue.

It is important to understand that a child withdrawn from Religious Education cannot access other National Curriculum subjects during this time, as this time is set aside for the basic curriculum - i.e. RE/PSHE/Relationships and Sex Education, in line with the school's legal responsibility to offer provision for these studies to take place. Also, if, for example, the issue of religion or a particular religion is covered during

the delivery of the National Curriculum, such as History, or the delivery of PSHE and Citizenship, the student cannot be withdrawn from these lessons because the right to withdrawal only applies to RS as required by the Agreed Syllabus.

The Curriculum Leader for Religious Studies has a responsibility to report back to the LA on all students withdrawn from RE/RS, and the alternative work put in place, and so will need to regularly verify that work set by parents and completed by the students is of an appropriate nature.

The school reserves the right to include students back into their Religious Education lessons if appropriate work is not provided by their parents during the withdrawal time. For example, no work being set at all, inappropriate work being set or work intended to support the child's learning of the National Curriculum, for example English or Maths. In such a case a letter will be sent home to parents advising them of this decision and a date given on when the child will be included back into the Religious Education provision of the school.

### **Support for Parents**

Parents do not have to give a reason to exercise their right to withdrawal. Allerton Grange School recognises that not all parents will find this easy and therefore we would encourage parents to seek support from the faith communities to which they belong, or groups such as the British Humanist Association if they wish to have a specifically non-religious curriculum. The Curriculum Leader will be able to provide contacts for different communities if necessary.