

## **The right to withdraw from RE**

This was first granted when RE was actually religious instruction and carried with it connotations of induction into the Christian faith. RE is very different now – open, broad, exploring a range of religious and non-religious worldviews. However, parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE lessons or any part of the RE curriculum<sup>9</sup> and the school has a duty to supervise them, though not to provide additional teaching or to incur extra cost. Where the pupil has been withdrawn, the law provides for alternative arrangements to be made for RE of the kind the parents want the pupil to receive. These arrangements will be made by the parents; the school is not expected to make these arrangements. This RE could be provided at the school in question, or by another school in the locality. If neither approach is practicable, the pupil may receive external RE teaching as long as the withdrawal does not have a significant impact on the pupil's attendance. Schools should have a policy setting out their approach to provision and withdrawal. However, it is good practice to talk to parents to ensure that they understand the aims and value of RE before honouring this right. Students aged 18 or over have the right to withdraw themselves from RE. More guidance on withdrawal can be found in Religious education in English schools: non-statutory guidance 2010, available online at [www.gov.uk/government/publications/religiouseducation-guidance-in-english-schools-non-statutory-guidance-2010](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/religiouseducation-guidance-in-english-schools-non-statutory-guidance-2010)

### **Religious Education at Totley Primary School**

At Totley Primary School, we believe that Religious Education (RE) plays a crucial role in promoting respect, tolerance, and understanding of different cultures, beliefs, and values. Our RE curriculum is designed to encourage students to explore a variety of religious traditions and worldviews, helping them to develop their own understanding of moral and ethical issues in a safe and supportive environment.

### **Right to Withdraw**

We recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their child from part or all of Religious Education under Section 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. This includes participation in any collective worship that may form part of the RE curriculum.

If a parent/carer chooses to withdraw their child, the school will respect this decision and provide alternative educational provision during RE lessons or any religious assemblies. We strongly encourage parents considering withdrawal to discuss their decision with the Headteacher in the first instance to explore how we can address any concerns.

### **Process for Withdrawal**

Parents who wish to withdraw their child from Religious Education should complete the Right to Withdraw Proforma (available at the school office or on the school website) and submit it to the Headteacher. Once submitted, the school will make appropriate arrangements for the child to engage in alternative activities during RE lessons or assemblies.

# Totley Primary School Right to Withdraw from RE - Proforma

## Parent/Carer Request for Withdrawal from Religious Education (RE)

Please complete this form if you wish to withdraw your child from part or all of the Religious Education curriculum.

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**Child's Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Class/Year Group:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Carer Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Relationship to Child:** \_\_\_\_\_

### I wish to withdraw my child from:

*(Please tick the relevant option)*

- All Religious Education lessons
- Specific parts of the RE curriculum (please detail below)
- Collective worship

**Please provide details of the specific parts of the RE curriculum you wish your child to be withdrawn from (if applicable):**

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### Reason for Withdrawal:

*(Optional)*

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### Alternative Activity Arrangements:

*(Optional - if you have preferences for how your child should be occupied during RE lessons)*

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**Signature of Parent/Carer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

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### For School Use Only

Date received: \_\_\_\_\_

Action taken: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternative provision arranged: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Headteacher: \_\_\_\_\_

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