



Finham Park School Protocol on Withdrawal from RE

Legal Requirements

RE is for all pupils and every pupil is legally entitled to Religious Education as part of a 'broad and balanced' curriculum. RE must be provided for all registered pupils in state funded schools in England (this includes sixth form pupils) unless they are withdrawn by their parents or have withdrawn themselves once reaching 18 years of age or older).

RE Curriculum

RE is locally determined, not nationally, and schools in Coventry and Warwickshire follow the Coventry and Warwickshire Agreed Syllabus, as recommended by SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education). Finham Park school has opted to follow the locally agreed syllabus and therefore RE is compulsory for all pupils.

Withdrawal from RE

Parental right of withdrawal from RE was first granted in 1944 when curricular RE was called 'Religious Instruction' and, as such, had connotations of induction into the Christian faith. RE is very different now and takes account of world faiths and non-religious world views so that children can learn about traditions without being inducted into those traditions.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from the school's RE provision but this will become the parents' responsibility to provide. Parents do not have to give a reason to exercise their right of withdrawal. However, the following must be noted:

- Though a child may be withdrawn from the school provision, they will still need to attend their timetabled classes. This is because the withdrawal request must bring zero cost to the school.
- Suitable work should be provided by home which covers the locally agreed syllabus for RE. This will be quality assured against the agreed syllabus.
- If parents wish their child to be completely removed from the RE class, they must make their own provision to pick their child up at the start of the taught period and return them in school in time for the start of the next period.

Requesting a withdrawal from RE

- 1) All requests must be made in writing and addressed to the Head of RE.
- 2) Parents will be invited to a face to face meeting to discuss their wishes and provide the school the opportunity to showcase the variety of topics covered in a modern RE curriculum.
- 3) Parents will be given options of a part or full withdrawal from RE with a review date.
- 4) Parents must opt for either collecting their child from school or providing the RE teacher with appropriate alternative work for their child to do.

Please note that parental right of withdrawal does not extend to other areas of the curriculum.