Right to Withdraw from RE Policy

St Andrew's CE Junior School

Approved by: Full Governing Body	**Date:** 23.10.2025 (Min 334)
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St Andrew's C of E Junior School

Right to Withdraw from RE Policy

Our Vision: 'Through experiences rooted in Christian Values and through mutual respect, we guide children to develop compassion, responsibility and resilience in a caring environment'

Introduction

At St Andrew's, we believe in providing a well-rounded education that respects the beliefs and values of our students. As part of our curriculum, we offer Religious Education (RE) lessons to foster an understanding and appreciation of different religions, worldviews and an understanding of our moral decision-making choices.

As a church school and in line with our christian values, we consider Religious Education an important part of education for citizenship, nurturing respect for other people's views, and enabling our pupils to promote inclusion and celebrate diversity in society. However, we understand that some students or their parents may have personal or religious reasons for not participating in RE lessons and have the right to withdraw from this. This policy outlines the procedure for students who wish to withdraw from RE lessons at St Andrew's

Eligibility

The law states that:

- If the parent asks that a pupil should be wholly or partly excused from receiving any religious education at the school, then the school must comply.
- The school continues to be responsible for the supervision of any child withdrawn by its parents from RE unless the child is lawfully receiving religious education elsewhere
- Withdrawal time should not be used to teach other curriculum areas e.g. additional mathematics sessions and additional teaching will not be given during the period of RE being taught.

Procedure

1. Parents considering withdrawing their child should make a written request to the head teacher. The request should include the student's name, class and if comfortable, a reason for refusing RE lessons (this is not mandatory, no reason has to be given).

2. Meeting with a School Representative: Upon receiving the written request, the school will arrange a meeting with the student and their parent/guardian to discuss their concerns to ensure that an informed decision is made.

3. Alternative Arrangements: After the meeting, the school will explore alternative arrangements whilst the RE lesson is taking place. These may include:

- Offering an alternative during the RE lesson time slot, such as supervised independent study. This study should be academically relevant and will be supervised.

- Allowing the student to participate in a different subject or activity that aligns with their beliefs and values.

4. Parental Consent: If alternative arrangements are agreed upon, the parent/guardian must provide written consent for the proposed alternative subject or activity.

5. Monitoring and Review: The school will monitor the student's progress and well-being to ensure that the alternative arrangements are satisfactory. The decision to withdraw will be reviewed on an annual basis.

6. Reconsideration: If, at any point, the student or their parent/guardian wishes to reconsider their decision to withdraw their child from RE lessons, they may do so at any point.

Conclusion

At St Andrew's, we respect the rights and beliefs of all our students. This policy aims to provide a fair and supportive process for students who wish to withdraw from Religious Education lessons.

Date: October 2025

Date for review: October 2027