The right to withdraw a child from all or part of RE

Parents/carers have a right to withdraw their child from RE.

The school will grant requests from parents/carers to withdraw their child, wholly or partly, from:

- Receiving religious education (RE) given in the school in accordance with the school's basic curriculum
- Attendance at religious worship in the school

This is set out in section 71(1) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Parents/carers don't have to give a reason

However, the school will work closely with the parents/carers to ensure they're "aware of the RE syllabus and that it is relevant to all pupils and respects their own personal beliefs".

The school will also give parents/carers the opportunity to discuss our RE curriculum with us, so that they can make an informed decision.

This is explained in non-statutory guidance on RE in English schools (pages 27 to 29).

Providing an alternative to RE lessons

The school has a duty to supervise any pupils who have been withdrawn from

RE, but **not** to:

- Provide additional teaching that is not RE
- Incur extra cost

The school will not ask parents/carers to supervise their children if they're withdrawn from RE.

The school will consider alternative arrangements for providing RE of the kind the parent/carer wants the child to receive. This is provided for in law, under section 71(3) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 for maintained schools.

This might involve:

- Providing the relevant RE at the school
- Sending the pupil to another school that provides suitable RE, if practical
- Withdrawing the pupil from school for a “reasonable period of time” to attend external RE

This is explained on page 28 of the non-statutory guidance.