



## Legal Right to Withdraw Children from RE and Collective Worship

At St Bartholomew's CE Primary School we fully respect the legal right of parents and carers to withdraw their child from Religious Education (RE), Collective Worship and visits to places of worship. This right can be exercised without any influence from the school, and we are committed to ensuring that parents and carers are well-informed about both their right to withdraw their child and the content and educational objectives of the RE syllabus.

If you decide to withdraw your child from RE or Collective Worship, the following procedure should be followed:

### Withdrawal Procedure:

1. **Notification:** Parents/carers wishing to withdraw their child from RE or religious assemblies should inform the school in writing, either directly to the Headteacher or via other formal written means. Verbal communication (e.g., through phone calls or notes) is not sufficient for this purpose. Please specify whether the withdrawal is partial or total.
2. **Meeting:** Following the request, parents/carers will be invited to meet with a senior leader if they wish. The meeting will serve to clarify any concerns about the RE curriculum and discuss the practical implications of withdrawal. During this meeting, the school will provide the Agreed Syllabus and Schemes of Work, allowing parents to ask any questions. This is not an attempt to change the parents' decision but to ensure they are fully informed.
3. **Alternative Work:** If your child is withdrawn from RE, parents/carers are required to provide suitable alternative work related to religious education for their child. The school will supervise the student during RE lessons, but it is not the responsibility of the teacher to provide or mark this alternative work.
4. **Supervision:** Students withdrawn from RE or Collective Worship will be supervised in a separate class or a designated area. These arrangements may change from week to week to ensure proper supervision.
5. **Visits to Places of Worship:** Parents/carers may also withdraw their child from visits to places of worship. Please provide prior notice so the school can arrange suitable supervision. Parents will be required to provide suitable alternative work RE work for the duration of the visit.

6. **Partial Withdrawal:** If a child is partially withdrawn from RE lessons that discuss specific religions or issues, we cannot guarantee that these topics will not be referenced in other lessons, such as History or English.

It is important to note that the right to withdraw a child from RE does not extend to non-RE subjects that may cover religious content, such as History or English.

We are here to work with you to ensure that your child's educational experience is aligned with your family's values while maintaining a respectful and inclusive environment for all students. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the school.