



Rights of Parents and Responsibilities of Schools



All schools must provide Religious Education (RE) and collective worship for all their pupils. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from all or part of RE and/or collective worship. When this happens, the school remains responsible for the supervision of the child and the health and safety of the child remains paramount. However, this should not incur extra cost to the school i.e. a child need not be supervised by a teacher or an assistant in a room on their own. It is usual for the child to be supervised in a library or with another class of pupils.

Parents do not need to give reasons for their request for the withdrawal of their child from RE and / or collective worship. (Note: RE and collective worship in schools are educational. RE must not be designed to convert pupils or to urge a particular religion or religious belief on pupils).

Schools are not responsible for providing alternative provision, an alternative curriculum or extra work. The school should not incur any extra cost. For example, a parent cannot ask for extra English or Maths work to be given to their child. No extra marking should take place.

Parents do not have the right to withdraw their children from other curriculum subjects (with the exception of sexual education) even when they cover aspects of religions and beliefs. Parents cannot determine the nature of content in these subjects. For example, pupils may encounter some religious ideas, beliefs or practices through Art, Music, Geography, English, History. Parents have a right to withdraw their children from the teaching of Religious Education not the reference to religions in other curriculum areas.