

RE withdrawal Policy (DRAFT)

Beverley High School



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This policy document is available in a variety of formats in line with the Equality Act 2010. It is available as a hard copy from the School Office or can be found on the School website at www.beverleyhigh.net

Introduction

“All pupils are entitled to receive RE as part of a broad and balanced curriculum at school which promotes their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development” - Religious education in English schools: (Non-statutory guidance 2010), but the law gives parents the right to withdraw their child(ren) from collective acts of worship and/or Religious Education lessons, in accordance with the 1988 Education Reform Act. At Beverley High School we respect that right though we do not support selective withdrawal from RE.

In the UK, the law does not prescribe how religious education should be taught or organised in schools, only that schools should bear in mind that the way RE is taught should reflect the agreed syllabus of the Local Education Authority and the ethos of the school, as well as ensuring that students make good progress, learning about and from the world around them and that Teaching Standards are adhered to. At Beverley High School we believe the RE curriculum fulfils this criteria.

Objectives

1. To ensure that parents are aware they have the right to withdraw their child (ren) from Religious Education classes and/or ‘religious’ assembly.
2. To ensure that when parents make a decision to withdraw their child (ren) from either Religious Education classes and/or ‘religious’ assembly, they do so on the basis of an informed decision.
3. To ensure students receive a well-rounded education enabling them to progress and achieve their potential.

Parental right to withdraw children from RE

Parents have the right to choose whether to withdraw their child from RE without influence from the school, although a school should ensure parents or carers are informed of this right and are aware of the educational objectives and content of the RE syllabus. If pupils are withdrawn from RE, schools have a duty to supervise them, though not to provide additional teaching or work or to incur extra cost; suitable work either relating to the child’s religious education or alternative appropriate work should be provided by the parents. Pupils will usually remain on school premises¹, unless the child is lawfully receiving religious education elsewhere.

Withdrawal Procedure

If a parent chooses to withdraw their child from RE, they need to:

- Inform the school of their request for their child(ren) to be withdrawn from RE and/or ‘religious assembly’ and whether they intend partial or total withdrawal for their child(ren)
This should be either in person or in writing to the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher

¹ Pages 27-28 Religious education in English schools: Non-statutory guidance 2010

- Parents of withdrawn children will be asked to provide suitable alternative work of a religious nature or if they are receiving religious education outside of school other appropriate school work for their child(ren) to be completed at the time of the RE lesson. It will not be the responsibility of any teacher either to set or mark alternative work. Students who have been withdrawn will be allocated to different classes on an independent basis in order to ensure suitable supervision. These arrangements may need to change from week to week.
- If a student is withdrawn from assembly, the Head of Year and Form Tutor will also be informed to ensure adequate supervision during the assembly.
- In addition to the above, parents also have the right opt out of any visits to places of worship. Prior notification will be necessary to ensure adequate supervision is organised for the student

Whilst Beverley High School respects the rights of the parent to withdraw their child(ren) from RE, these rights do not apply to a parent's request to withdraw their child from a non-RE subject that may teach about religion or religious beliefs, e.g. History or English.

Conclusion

By following these guidelines, the withdrawal of children from Religious Education will be clear, efficient and safe for the child(ren)