

## Townhill Infant School

### Guidance on the right of withdrawal from religious education and/or collective worship

If the school receives a request that a pupil is to be withdrawn from religious education and/or collective worship or receive religious education which is different to that taught at the school.

The right of withdrawal from Religious Education and/or Collective Worship Parents of pupils in academies is permitted, by law, to request that their child is withdrawn from receiving all or part of religious education and/or collective worship given at the school and any such request shall stand until such time that the parent's request is withdrawn.

What happens to the pupil if he/she is withdrawn from Religious Education and/or Collective Worship?

If pupils are withdrawn from religious education and/or collective worship, schools have a duty to supervise them, though not to provide additional teaching or to incur extra costs. Depending on school resources, the withdrawn pupil may be moved to another venue within the school, for example, the library, or, perhaps in a very small school with limited resources, the pupil may remain in the RE classroom but will not participate in the RE lesson. If the pupil is moved to another venue within the school, they must be supervised. If a pupil is withdrawn and alternative arrangements cannot be made for the type of RE the parents' desire for example, due to resources/timetabling etc, it is the parents' responsibility to provide materials for their child which have clear outcomes and are connected to the faith/philosophy/world view of the parents.

A school can refuse a request that the pupil study other aspects of the National Curriculum during times they have been withdrawn from RE and/or collective worship as time is already given over to these subjects within the school's basic curriculum. It is important to bear in mind that the parental right to withdraw a child from RE was intended by Parliament to be a 'conscience clause' and not to be used as a general opt-out clause. Care should be taken not to confuse a request for absence due to religious observance with a request to withdraw a child from RE and/or collective worship.