

## **Religious Education: Policy of Withdrawal**

### **Legal Responsibility**

Every child has a legal entitlement to RE and it is our duty of care to provide that for the students at Ken Stimpson. The basic school curriculum includes the National Curriculum, RE and relationships and sex education (PSHE). To ensure that we deliver the best curriculum for the students the decision has been made to deliver RE within specialist lessons so that we can ensure that we are fully representative of religious and worldviews. It also follows the locally agreed syllabus for the area which is representative of a wide range of views. PSHE, will now be delivered within our second tutor period of the day. This will mean that it is delivered by teachers that see their students on a day-to-day basis so it can really support their emotional well-being in the very challenging times that we have all experienced. Both subjects (RE and PSHE) can contain topics that are sensitive for a variety of reasons, and we aim to fully respect that.

The RE curriculum however, is unique because as a parent or legal guardian you have the right to withdraw your child from this subject. Please visit our curriculum page so that you can see our intent for the subject and what we will cover this year in the RE curriculum. Further clarification of the right to withdraw is given in this document. You are most welcome to discuss any of the concerns with regards to the content of the subject with the subject lead: [v.nottingham@kscs.org.uk](mailto:v.nottingham@kscs.org.uk).

### **Importance of RE**

Our subject of RE is in no way following a particular doctrine of RE. Most religions and worldviews accept the view of personhood as being marked by the capacity for rationality and autonomy. RE subject matter gives particular opportunities to promote an ethos of respect for others, challenge stereotypes and build understanding of other cultures and beliefs. This contributes to promoting a positive and inclusive school ethos that champions democratic values and human rights.

Students examine issues of religious belief and faith and how these impact on personal, institutional, and social ethics; and express their responses. It also builds resilience to anti-democratic or extremist narratives. It enables students to build their sense of identity and belonging, which helps them flourish within their communities and as citizens in a diverse society. It teaches students to develop respect for others, including people with different faiths and beliefs, and helps to challenge prejudice in many forms. It prompts students to consider their responsibilities to themselves and to others, and to explore how they might contribute to their communities and to wider society. It encourages empathy, generosity and compassion. It also makes a wider contribution to the academic achievement of the student.

### **Right to Withdraw from RE**

The right to withdraw from the subject was granted in 1944 when the RE curriculum was 'Religious Instruction' and therefore would have been an induction in the Christian faith. The intention therefore was so that students could be provided with an alternative form of RE. RE today is very different today, open, broad, and exploring a range of religious and non-religious worldviews.

In the UK, parents still have the right to withdraw from RE if you want to provide your own RE curriculum. This provision is the parents' responsibility. You also have the right to withdraw them from a part of the RE curriculum without explanation, so it would be important to look at the scheme of learning on the curriculum page.

The procedure to withdraw in to apply in writing to the headteacher: The Principle [ppa@kscs.org.uk](mailto:ppa@kscs.org.uk). You do not have to give a reason for the withdrawal. The RE teacher of the student is not required to provide alternative work. The parent would need to provide their own RE provision, that will need to be approved by the school. The school will provide a safe and secure place for their provided RE learning. Following the request there will be a discussion to establish what alternative provisions for appropriate RE, parents wish to provide or seek to be set in place. This could involve making facilities available at the school, but it cannot funded by the school budget or the local authority.