



Religious Education (RE) Withdrawal Information

At Markland Hill, we are committed to fostering an inclusive and respectful learning environment that reflects our vision of nurturing compassionate, confident, and curious pupils. As part of this, we recognise the importance of Religious Education (RE) in promoting respect and tolerance—key British values that help pupils understand and appreciate different beliefs and cultures within our diverse society.

We understand that parents have the right to make decisions about their child's participation in RE lessons, and this page provides clear guidance on how to request withdrawal from RE, in line with statutory requirements.

Your Right to Withdraw Your Child from RE Lessons

Under Section 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, parents have the legal right to request that their child is wholly or partly excused from:

- Religious Education lessons as part of the school's basic curriculum
- Acts of Collective Worship held in school

You do **not** need to provide a reason for your request. However, we encourage you to discuss any concerns you may have with Mrs Kavanagh, our Headteacher, before making a formal withdrawal request. This conversation helps us understand your perspective and ensures you have all the information you need.

Important Information About Withdrawal

- If your child is withdrawn from RE, the school will supervise them during these times, but we are not required to provide alternative teaching or incur additional costs.
- Pupils withdrawn from RE may be asked to work in a quiet area such as the library or another supervised space.

- It is important to note that while withdrawal applies specifically to RE lessons, pupils may still encounter religious themes and beliefs in other parts of the National Curriculum, such as History or PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic education). These subjects promote community cohesion and help pupils explore identity, diversity, and respect for others in both religious and non-religious contexts.
 - Spontaneous questions about religion may arise during other lessons, reflecting our commitment to open dialogue and understanding.
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How to Request Withdrawal

To formally withdraw your child from RE lessons or Collective Worship:

- Submit a written request addressed to Mrs Kavanagh, the Headteacher.
 - The school will comply with your request and excuse your child from the relevant sessions until you notify us otherwise.
 - While not legally required, the Headteacher may invite you to discuss your withdrawal request to ensure we fully support your child's educational experience.
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Supporting Respect and Tolerance Through RE

At Markland Hill, our vision and values emphasise respect, kindness, and community. Learning about different religions and beliefs is a vital part of this, helping pupils develop empathy and a deeper understanding of the world around them. This understanding supports the key British values of respect for others and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs, preparing pupils to be responsible and thoughtful citizens.

Summary

We recognise and respect your right to withdraw your child from Religious Education and Collective Worship. Our aim is to work collaboratively with parents while promoting our school values of respect, empathy, and community cohesion. If you wish to discuss the RE curriculum or the withdrawal process, please contact Mrs Kavanagh, Headteacher.

Next Steps:

If you are considering withdrawing your child from RE lessons, please write to the Headteacher and feel free to arrange a meeting to discuss your decision. We are here to support you and your child every step of the way.