



Lady Lumley's School – RE Withdrawal Procedure

Legal Requirements

RE is for all pupils and every pupil is legally entitled to Religious Education as part of a 'broad and balanced' curriculum. RE must be provided for all registered pupils in state funded schools in England (this includes sixth form pupils) unless they are withdrawn by their parents or have withdrawn themselves once reaching 18 years of age or older).

Importance of RE

RE contributes dynamically to children and young people's education in schools by provoking challenging questions about meaning and purpose in life, beliefs about God, ultimate reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human. In RE they learn about and from religions and worldviews in local, national and global contexts, to discover, explore and consider different answers to these questions. They learn to weigh up the value of wisdom from different sources, to develop and express their insights in response, and to agree or disagree respectfully. RE therefore equips pupils with systematic knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews, enabling them to develop their ideas, values, and identities. It develops in students an aptitude for dialogue so that they can participate positively in our society with its diverse religions and worldviews. Students gain and deploy the skills needed to understand, interpret, and evaluate texts, sources of wisdom and authority and other evidence.

Students learn to articulate clearly and coherently their personal beliefs, ideas, values and experiences while respecting the right of others to differ.

The study of RE allows students to explore and demonstrate core British Values.

Withdrawal from RE

Parental right of withdrawal from RE was first granted in 1944 when curricular RE was called 'Religious Instruction' and, as such, had connotations of induction into the Christian faith. RE is very different now and takes account of world faiths and non-religious world views so that children can learn about traditions without being inducted into those traditions.

Parents have the right to withdraw their child from the school's RE provision, but this will become the parents' responsibility to provide. Parents do not have to give a reason to exercise their right of withdrawal. However, the following must be noted:

- Though a child may be withdrawn from the school provision, they will still need to attend their timetabled classes. This is because the withdrawal request must bring zero cost to the school.
- Suitable work should be provided by home which covers the locally agreed syllabus for RE. This will be quality assured against the agreed syllabus.

Requesting a withdrawal from RE

1. All requests must be made in writing and addressed to the Head of RE and the Headteacher.
2. Parents will be invited to a face-to-face meeting to discuss their wishes and provide the school the opportunity to showcase the variety of topics covered in a modern RE curriculum.
3. Parents will be given options of a part or full withdrawal from RE with a review date.
4. Parents must provide the RE teacher with appropriate alternative work for their child to do.

Please note that parental right of withdrawal does not extend to other areas of the curriculum.