

Withdrawal from Religious Education (RE)

At Wistaston Academy, Religious Education (RE) is taught in line with the Cheshire East Agreed Syllabus. Through RE, pupils learn about different religions, beliefs, and worldviews to develop respect, understanding, and tolerance for others. Lessons encourage reflection on moral, cultural, and spiritual questions, supporting our wider aims for personal development and British Values.

Parents and carers have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of RE lessons if they wish. However, we encourage families to discuss any concerns with a member of the Senior Leadership Team before making a decision, as RE at our school is designed to be inclusive, informative, and non-denominational.

If, after discussion, you still wish to withdraw your child from RE, you will need to make a written request to the Headteacher.

Important – Limitations to Withdrawal

- If pupils are withdrawn from RE, the school has a duty to supervise them, though there is no requirement to provide additional teaching or incur extra costs. Pupils may be required to work quietly in another area of the school.
- While parents or carers have the right to withdraw children from RE, they should note that pupils may also encounter religious ideas, beliefs, and values within other areas of the curriculum — such as history, English, PSHE, or assemblies — from which there is no right of withdrawal.
- On occasion, spontaneous questions or discussions about religion and belief may arise naturally in lessons. The school encourages open, respectful discussion in these instances to promote understanding and inclusion.

Managing the Right of Withdrawal

Where a written request for withdrawal is made, the school will comply and excuse the pupil until the request is rescinded.

If you would like more information about our RE curriculum or the Cheshire East Agreed Syllabus, these can be found on the school website.