



The Sutton Academy

RE Statutory Requirements: Parent and Carer Information

At the Sutton Academy we value Religious Education (RE). All students are entitled to receive RE as part of a broad and balanced curriculum at school which promotes their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development” - Religious education in English schools: Non-statutory guidance 2010.

However, the law gives parents/carers the right to withdraw their child(ren) from collective acts of worship and/or Religious Education lessons, in accordance with the 1988 Education Reform Act. At the Sutton Academy we respect that right.

In the UK, the law does not prescribe how religious education should be taught or organised in schools, only that schools should bear in mind that the way RE is taught should reflect the agreed syllabus of the Local Education Authority and the ethos of the school, as well as ensuring that students make good progress, learning about and from the world around them and that Teaching Standards are adhered to. At the Sutton Academy, we believe the RE curriculum fulfils this criteria.

Parental right to withdraw children from RE

Parents/carers have the right to choose whether to withdraw their child from RE without influence from the school, although a school should ensure parents or carers are informed of this right and are aware of the educational objectives and content of the RE syllabus. If students are withdrawn from RE, schools have a duty to supervise them, though not to provide additional teaching or to incur extra cost; **suitable work relating to the child’s religious education should be provided by the parents/carers.** Students will remain on school premises, unless the child is lawfully receiving religious education elsewhere.

Withdrawal Procedure

If a parent chooses to withdraw their child from RE, they need to:

- Inform the school of their request for their child(ren) to be withdrawn from RE and/or ‘religious assembly’ and whether they intend partial or total withdrawal for their child(ren). This should be either in person or in writing to the school Principal, Mr Willerton. The attached form can be printed and completed to action this.
- Parents/carers of withdrawn children will be asked to provide suitable alternative work of a religious nature for their child(ren) to be completed at the time of the RE lesson.
- It will not be the responsibility of the teacher either to set or mark alternative work.
- Students who have been withdrawn will be allocated to different classes or a specified place on an independent basis in order to ensure suitable supervision. These arrangements may need to change from week to week.
- If a student is only to be partially withdrawn from RE lessons that discuss a specific religion or issue, it cannot be guaranteed that reference to these religions or issues will not be made in more general lessons

Whilst the academy respects the rights of the parents/carers to withdraw their child(ren) from RE, these rights do not apply to a parent’s/carer’s request to withdraw their child from a non-RE subject that may teach about religion or religious beliefs, e.g. History or English.

Parent and Carer Form - Withdrawal from RE

TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENTS/CARERS

Name of child		Tutor Group	
Name of Parent/Carer		Date	
Outline of Request			
Outline of alternative work/study to be provided by parent/carers			
Parent/Carer signature			
Parent/Carer contact details			
Phone number:			
Email address:			

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE ACADEMY

Agreed actions from discussion with parents	
Principal signature	
Date	