



RE Policy Statement (inc. Right to Withdraw)

The principal aim of religious education is to explore what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that pupils can gain the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to handle questions raised by religion and belief, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living.

At Croft C of E Primary School, we believe that by the end of their time at school, all of our children will have the opportunity to study RE through different 'lenses' such as psychology, philosophy, sociology and theology to find out about people's differing worldviews. This will enable our children to find out about what different people believe and how this makes a difference to how they live. Throughout their time at Croft, our children will be given the opportunity to study a range of world religions and non-religious worldviews. As a school, we are committed to ensuring that our RE curriculum is based upon recent research. For this reason, our children will learn through the worldviews approach to RE. This will ensure that they will learn about diversity within the worldviews that they study. All of our children will be given a range of opportunities to ask big questions about religion and belief, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living. At Croft C of E Primary, we believe that our RE curriculum should be challenging, exciting, thought provoking and interesting. We want to ensure that our children go out into the world understanding the differing views of the people that they will come into contact with. Links are made between RE and other curriculum areas, particularly PSHE and RHSE.

Legal requirements

RE at Croft C of E Primary will meet legal requirements by:

- its inclusion in the curriculum of all registered pupils. In primary school, this is a requirement for all pupils in Reception to Year 6.
- reflecting the fact that religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian, while taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religious traditions represented in Great Britain.
- teaching RE in accordance with Leicestershire locally Agreed Syllabus.

The Church of England's Statement of Entitlement

The Church of England's Statement of Entitlement outlines the aims and expectations for Religious Education in Church of England Schools and guides this school's approach to RE. Page 4 of 13 It begins by stating: Religious Education in a Church school should enable every child to flourish and to live life in all its fullness. (John 10:10) It will help to educate for dignity and respect encouraging all to live well together. Quoting from the Church of England's Vision for Education: Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good, it continues Such an approach is offered through a commitment to generous hospitality, being true to our underpinning faith, but with a deep respect for the integrity of other religious traditions (and worldviews) and for the religious freedom of each person.

The Right of Withdrawal from Religious Education

It is hoped that in a Church of England School it will not be necessary for any pupils to be withdrawn from RE. However, we recognise that this may sometimes be necessary. At Croft C of E School we wish to be an inclusive community but recognise that parents have the legal right to withdraw their children from religious education on the grounds of conscience. However, the right of withdrawal does not extend to other areas of the curriculum when, as may happen on occasions, spontaneous questions on religious matters are raised by pupils or there are issues related to religion that arise in other subjects such as history and citizenship. We would ask any parent considering this to contact the Headteacher to discuss any concerns and anxieties about the policy, provision and practice of religious education at our school.

Managing the Right of Withdrawal

The school will ensure that parents who want to withdraw their children from RE are aware of the RE syllabus and that it is relevant to all pupils and respects their own personal beliefs. Parents should be made aware of the learning objectives and what is covered in the RE curriculum and should be given the opportunity to discuss this, if they wish. The school may also wish to review such a request each year, in discussion with the parents. The use of the right to withdraw should be at the instigation of parents, and it should be made clear whether it is from the whole of the subject or specific parts of it. No reasons need be given. Parents have the right to choose whether or not to withdraw their child from RE without influence from the school, although a school should ensure that parents or carers are informed of this right and are aware of the educational objectives and content of the RE syllabus. In this way, parents can make an informed decision. Where parents have requested that their child is withdrawn, their right must be respected, and where RE is integrated in the curriculum, the school will need to discuss the arrangements with the parents or carers to explore how the child's withdrawal can be best accommodated.

If pupils are withdrawn from RE, schools have a duty to supervise them, though not to provide additional teaching or to incur extra cost. Pupils will usually remain on school premises. Where a pupil has been withdrawn, the law provides for alternative arrangements to be made for RE of the kind the parent wants the pupil to receive. This RE could be provided at the school in question, or the pupil could be sent to another school where suitable RE is provided if this is reasonably convenient. If neither approach is practicable, outside arrangements can be made to provide the pupil with the kind of RE that the parent wants, and the pupil may be withdrawn from school for a reasonable period of time to allow them to attend