

## Religious Education – Right to Withdraw

### **The right of withdrawal from Religious Education:**

Religion and belief have become more and more visible in public life in recent years, making it crucial that all students should have a good understanding. The opportunity to engage in high quality RE delivered by professional staff using a well rounded and resourced curriculum are paramount. However, parents may request that their child be excused from all or part of the religious education provided.

Parents who wish to withdraw their children from RE should be aware of the syllabus's aims, scope and purpose and what is covered in the RE curriculum. Any parent wishing to discuss the curriculum content or approach should contact the school and arrange a meeting with the Head Teacher or members of SLT. It should be made clear if the withdrawal is from the whole RE curriculum or specific parts of it. Parents are under no obligation to give any reasons if they do not wish to.

### **Important- limitations to withdrawal**

- If a student is withdrawn from RE the school has a duty to supervise them, though not to produce additional teaching. A student may be required to work in another area of the school such as the library, classroom, year lead office, KSC office or with SLT.
- Whilst parents or carers have a right to withdraw children from RE, they should note that the children may also encounter religious beliefs and wider aspects of faith in other areas of the curriculum from which there is no right of withdrawal.
- On occasion questions about religion or religious matters are raised by students or issues related to religion arise in other curriculum areas such as history, PSHE, science. Boldon School uses opportunities such as these to promote community cohesion and help students to understand ideas about diversity, identity, feelings and emotions, factors that affect decisions within both religious and non religious contexts.

### **Managing the right of withdrawal**

If a student is withdrawn from RE Boldon School has a duty to supervise them, though not to incur any extra cost or to provide additional teaching. Students will attend school and remain on school premises at all times during these lessons.

Where a request for withdrawal is made the school must comply and excuse the student until the request is rescinded. The school will check with parents on a half termly basis if they still wish for their child to be removed from RE.

In order to make a withdrawal request, parents should contact school through the school email address [info@boldonschool.org.uk](mailto:info@boldonschool.org.uk) to arrange for a meeting to discuss any concerns they have about the RE curriculum.