Ellison Primary Academy

Right to Withdraw from Religious Education Policy

Policy Statement

Ellison Primary Academy respects the rights of parents and guardians to determine the religious education of their children. We recognise that Religious Education (RE) is a statutory part of the curriculum in primary schools, designed to develop an understanding of various beliefs and values. However, we also acknowledge that families may wish to exercise their legal right to withdraw their child from some or all parts of RE lessons. This policy outlines the procedure for parents/guardians who wish to withdraw their child from Religious Education and ensures that the process is handled respectfully and in line with statutory guidance.

Legal Framework

This policy is guided by:

1. The Education Act 1996.

2. The School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

3. Department for Education (DfE) guidance on Religious Education in schools. Under these regulations, parents/guardians have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of Religious Education without providing a reason.

Objectives

1. To provide clarity on the process of withdrawal from RE.

2. To respect the rights and beliefs of families while ensuring minimal disruption to the

school's curriculum and ethos.

3. To provide alternative arrangements for students who are withdrawn, in consultation with parents/guardians.

Procedure for Withdrawal

1. Communication with the School

- Parents/guardians wishing to withdraw their child must inform the school in writing.
- The school encourages parents/guardians to meet with the Headteacher or relevant staff member to discuss their decision. This meeting is not mandatory and is intended to ensure that parents/guardians are fully informed about the RE curriculum and the implications of withdrawal.

2. Scope of Withdrawal

- Parents/guardians may choose to withdraw their child from all or specific parts of the RE curriculum. This should be clearly specified in the written request.