

# St Catherine's Catholic Primary School



'Let your Light Shine'

## Withdrawal from RE and Collective Worship Policy

Date reviewed: 10<sup>th</sup> October

Date of next review: October 25

Date ratified by the Governing Board: October 24

## **The place of RE in the Catholic school curriculum**

Placing Religious Education at the core of the curriculum in Catholic schools helps a school fulfil its mission to educate the whole person: academically, spiritually and emotionally. Furthermore, religiously literate children and young people are able to engage in a fully informed assessment of all knowledge, leading, for example, *“to an understanding of the relationship between science and religion or history, and between theology, sport and the human body.”* (Religious Education Curriculum Directory p4)

St. Catherine’s wholly embraces the principle that, *‘The outcome of excellent Religious Education is religiously literate and engaged young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to reflect spiritually and think ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.’* (Religious Education Curriculum Directory p6). Indeed, Religious Education at St. Catherine’s Catholic Primary School is at the core of our curriculum.

The school will ensure that parents are fully informed about the content of the RE curriculum and have the opportunity to discuss this with school staff.

## **The right of withdrawal from RE and/or collective worship**

It is acknowledged by the local governing committee that parents are their child’s first teachers. The governors understand their role in providing good quality Religious Education at St. Catherine’s. They respect that in law parents have the right to ask for their child to be withdrawn, partly or fully, from Religious Education and/or Collective Worship in order to offer religious education for their child which is not provided by the school. They recognise that the right to withdrawal is not a general opt-out request.

Parents do not have to offer a reason for the withdrawal, but the request will need to be discussed in order for the school to make arrangements should the parent wish to.

## **Managing the right of withdrawal from RE and/or collective worship**

If a parent requests that their child is to be wholly or partially withdrawn from RE lessons and/or Collective Worship, the headteacher will offer to meet the parents to discuss the request and to make the parent fully aware of the content of the RE curriculum. This may include the offer of observing a Religious Education lesson or liturgy.

Should the parent(s) still wish for their child to be withdrawn from RE lessons and/or Collective Worship, the headteacher will explain to the parent(s) that work will need to be provided for the child linked to their own religious beliefs in its place. This work will need to be assessed and marked by the parents and returned to school.

The headteacher will explain who will supervise the pupil, where that supervision will take place and that the pupil can do work set by the parent/teacher to further educate their child in their own religious belief. The work set will be monitored by the person supervising the child’s withdrawal to ensure tasks set are completed, but the assessment of such work will be done by the parent.

The headteacher will make it clear that the pupil will not be able to receive instruction in National Curriculum subjects during the time of withdrawal as this time is given over to Religious Education.

If after viewing the RE curriculum and meeting with the headteacher the parent still wishes to remove their child from RE and/or Collective Worship, the headteacher will ask the parent to make a written request for withdrawal.

This written request will be acknowledged in writing with an explanation of the agreed arrangements for that academic year. A separate request is needed for each academic year and for each individual child within a family.

This policy will be monitored and reviewed every two years.

### **Equality statement**

- The governors and staff are committed to providing the full range of opportunities for all pupils, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, social, cultural or religious background. All pupils have access to the curriculum, and the right to a learning environment, which dispels ignorance, prejudice or stereotyping.
- This policy has been impact assessed by governors in order to ensure that it does not have an adverse effect on age, gender or disability equality.

