

Right of Withdrawal from Religious Education (RE)

Our Approach to Religious Education

At Millom School, our Religious Education (RE) curriculum is taught as part of Personal Development (PD). Our curriculum is designed to be fully inclusive, objective, and respectful of all personal faith backgrounds and non-religious worldviews. Our lessons do not attempt to indoctrinate or promote any specific belief system. Instead, RE provides a critical space for students to foster cultural diversity, build religious literacy, and explore moral, social, and spiritual concepts that reflect modern life. We believe this subject plays a central role in preparing students to be open-minded and responsible citizens.

Your Legal Right to Withdraw

We understand and respect that parents and carers possess the statutory right to wholly or partly excuse their children from RE lessons.

Please note the following legal parameters regarding withdrawal:

- **No Reason Required:** Parents and carers are not required by law to provide an explanation or justification for their decision.
- **Partial or Total:** You may choose to withdraw your child from the entire RE curriculum or from specific parts of it (e.g., units focusing on a particular religion or concept).
- **Scope of Withdrawal:** This right applies strictly to dedicated RE lessons within the PD curriculum. It does not extend to other National Curriculum subjects where religious history, art, literature, or science (such as evolution) are taught.
- **Student Independence:** Parental consent remains necessary for 6th Form students to withdraw from RE lessons until they turn 18.

How to Request a Withdrawal

If you are considering withdrawing your child from RE, we highly encourage you to view our curriculum content or contact the school to look through our lesson materials. Often, parents find that our modern curriculum does not focus on the areas they are concerned about.

Should you wish to move forward with a request, please follow these steps:

1. **Submit in Writing:** Send a formal written request via email or letter addressed directly to the Headteacher at genenquiries@millom.cumbria.sch.uk. Please explicitly state whether the withdrawal is total or partial, listing the specific topics if partial.

2. **Discussion Invitation:** Upon receiving your request, the school will reach out to invite you to a brief, informal meeting. This discussion is completely optional but serves as a way for us to understand your parameters, clarify what alternative supervision will look like, and ensure your child's needs are met smoothly.
3. **Supervision Arrangements:** During RE lessons, withdrawn students will be safely supervised on school premises (for example, in the library or a quiet breakout zone). Please note that while the school ensures full supervision, we do not provide alternative teaching or additional curriculum work during this block.
4. **Annual Review:** To ensure our records remain accurate as your child progresses through school, withdrawal requests are logged and reviewed on an annual basis.