

Statement on parents' and carers' right to withdraw their child from Religious Education (RE)

Date: 23 August 2026

1. Our position

- At The Flitch Green Academy RE is part of the statutory curriculum. We aim to teach RE in a way that is respectful, balanced and inclusive of the school's diverse community.
- Parents and carers have the legal right to withdraw their child from all or part of the school's RE lessons. This statement explains how to exercise that right and what happens afterwards.

2. Legal basis

- The right to withdraw is a parental right under current legislation and guidance. The school will respect requests to withdraw in line with statutory duties.

3. How to request withdrawal

- If you wish to withdraw your child, please write to the headteacher giving:
- your child's name and class;
- which element(s) of RE you wish them to be withdrawn from (all RE or specific lessons); and
- whether you request partial or complete withdrawal for the current academic year.
- Send the request by email or post to Sarah-Jane Pyne, Principal, The Flitch Green Academy. You may also make initial enquiries by phone, but a written request is required to process the withdrawal.

4. What happens after a request is received

- We will acknowledge your request in writing within 5 school days and arrange a short meeting or telephone call (if you wish) to confirm:
- the scope of withdrawal;
- practical arrangements for your child during RE lessons (supervision, location and timings); and
- any reasonable adjustments needed for safeguarding or curriculum access.
- The school will record the withdrawal on the pupil's file and on the school register.

5. Alternative provision

- While withdrawn, your child will be provided with appropriate, supervised alternative activities during the RE lesson time. This provision will be safe, age-appropriate and compliant with

safeguarding requirements. It will not impart religious instruction contrary to the reasons for withdrawal.

6. Partial withdrawal

- You may choose to withdraw your child from specific elements of RE (for example where lessons include worship or a particular faith perspective). The school will explain which parts of the curriculum are affected and agree arrangements that minimise disruption to learning.

7. Changing your mind

- If you wish to reinstate your child's participation in RE, please notify the headteacher in writing. We will arrange for the child to rejoin lessons as soon as possible and confirm the date in writing.

8. Pupils' views and increasing maturity

- As pupils grow older, we encourage discussion with families about what is appropriate. Where a pupil is competent to form their own views, the school will take their wishes into account in line with legal guidance and best practice.

9. Safeguarding and statutory duties

- Withdrawal from RE does not remove any of the school's safeguarding responsibilities. The child will remain under school supervision and be included in all necessary reviews and records. If the child has an EHCP/IDP or other identified additional needs, the SENCo will ensure withdrawal arrangements are compatible with those plans and with the child's best interests.

10. Record keeping and review

- The school will retain a record of all withdrawal requests and the arrangements made.

11. Contact for queries

For further information or to submit a withdrawal request contact:

Sarah-Jane Pyne, Principal, The Flitch Green Academy Email:

admin@flitchgreen.net

- Phone: 01371 822330
- Address: The Flitch Green Academy, Tanton Road, Flitch Green, Dunmow, CM6 3GG