



Isca Academy

Statement on the Right to Withdraw a Child from Religious Education

Date of publication: June 2020

Review date: June 2021

Isca Academy believes in the importance of a full and rounded education, which includes the study of a range of religious and moral standpoints. We comply fully with the Right to Withdraw a Child from Religious Education Section 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

As an Academy, we follow the guidance on Religious Education provided by the then Department for Children, Schools and Families in 2010, which remains in force. This guidance explains that the right of withdrawal does not extend to other areas of the curriculum when, as may happen on occasion, spontaneous questions on religious matters are raised by students or there are issues related to religion that arise in other subjects such as History, English or PSHE. The use of the right to withdraw should be at the instigation of parents and it should be made clear whether it is from the whole of the subject or specific parts of it.

At Isca Academy we fully acknowledge that parents have the right to choose whether or not to withdraw their child from Religious Education without influence from the school and without giving a reason. We endeavour to ensure that parents or carers are informed of this right and are aware of the educational objectives and content of the Religious Education syllabus. Where parents have requested that their child is withdrawn, Isca Academy will request a meeting with parents to explore the content and objectives of the Religious Education syllabus, or any additional support that may enable the child to continue to access Religious Education. This meeting is intended to support parents in making an informed decision. If, following this meeting, parents wish to go forward with a withdrawal from Religious Education, Isca Academy will, of course, respect that decision. We will then discuss the arrangements with the parents or carers to explore how the child's withdrawal can be best accommodated.

If students are withdrawn from Religious Education, Isca Academy will supervise them during this time on school premises and will provide other appropriate work so that learning time is not lost. However, parents should be aware that attending other subject lessons, such as additional Maths or English with specialist teachers, will not be possible.