



Exmouth Community College
Right to Withdraw from
Religious Education
Statement

Legal Entitlement to Religious Education

Religious Education (RE) is a statutory requirement for all pupils in state-funded schools in England, including academies. It forms part of the basic curriculum and is essential to delivering a broad and balanced education. RE must reflect that the religious traditions in Great Britain are, in the main, Christian, while also taking account of the teaching and practices of other principal religions and non-religious worldviews.

Our Commitment to Inclusive, Engaging Religious Education

At Exmouth Community College, we respect the religious and non-religious backgrounds of all pupils. Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE) at ECC is a thriving subject adding huge value to all our students' lives. Our curriculum aims to support all our young people in developing a deep understanding and curiosity of the complexities of other peoples' religious and non-religious worldviews.

Parental Right of Withdrawal

Parents have a legal right to withdraw their child from all or part of RE lessons. This was first granted in 1944 when RE was called 'Religious Instruction' and carried with it connotations of induction into the Christian faith. RE is very different now – open, broad and exploring a range of religious and non-religious worldviews. However, parents do still have the right to withdraw their children from RE on the grounds that they wish to provide their own RE.

When a Pupil Is Withdrawn

If a pupil is withdrawn from RE, the school has a duty of care to supervise the pupil during RE lessons. However, the school is not required to provide alternative education or incur additional costs. This time must not be used for additional instruction in other curriculum subjects (e.g., extra maths or science). The legislation indicates that the parent/carer will provide their own RE work that they wish their child to complete in the allocated RE periods.

At ECC students will be supervised in their timetabled RE lessons. For safeguarding they will be on these registers and need to work at the back of the classrooms.

Should you wish to discuss the removal of your own child from RE at ECC, please contact Lisa Lowe, Faculty leader of RPE to arrange a meeting.