



Watford Grammar School for Girls

Withdrawal from Religious Education Policy

This policy adopted by Board of Governors	March 2024
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Committee Responsible	Curriculum
Statutory	No

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1. Purpose, Scope and Principles

The purpose of the policy is to provide a framework for the Governors and Headmistress for dealing with all requests from parents/carers and Sixth Form Students for withdrawal from religious education and/or collective worship.

This procedure applies in its entirety to pupils in Key Stages 3 and 4. In Key Stage 5, students can choose for themselves to opt out of collective worship if they wish. However, they cannot opt out of receiving religious education without parental consent until they are 18.

2. Legislation and Guidance

2.1 Legal Position

The School Standards and Framework Act (DfE, 1998) states that:

If the parent of a pupil at a community, foundation or voluntary school requests that s/he may be wholly or partly excused from receiving religious education given at the school in accordance with the school's basic curriculum, the pupil shall be so excused until the request is withdrawn.

If the parent of any pupil at a community, foundation or voluntary school other than a sixth-form pupil requests that s/he may be wholly or partly excused from attendance at religious worship at the school, the pupil shall be so excused until the request is withdrawn.

If a sixth-form pupil requests that s/he may be wholly or partly excused from attendance at religious worship at a community, foundation or voluntary school, the pupil shall be so excused.

2.2 The Religious Education Curriculum

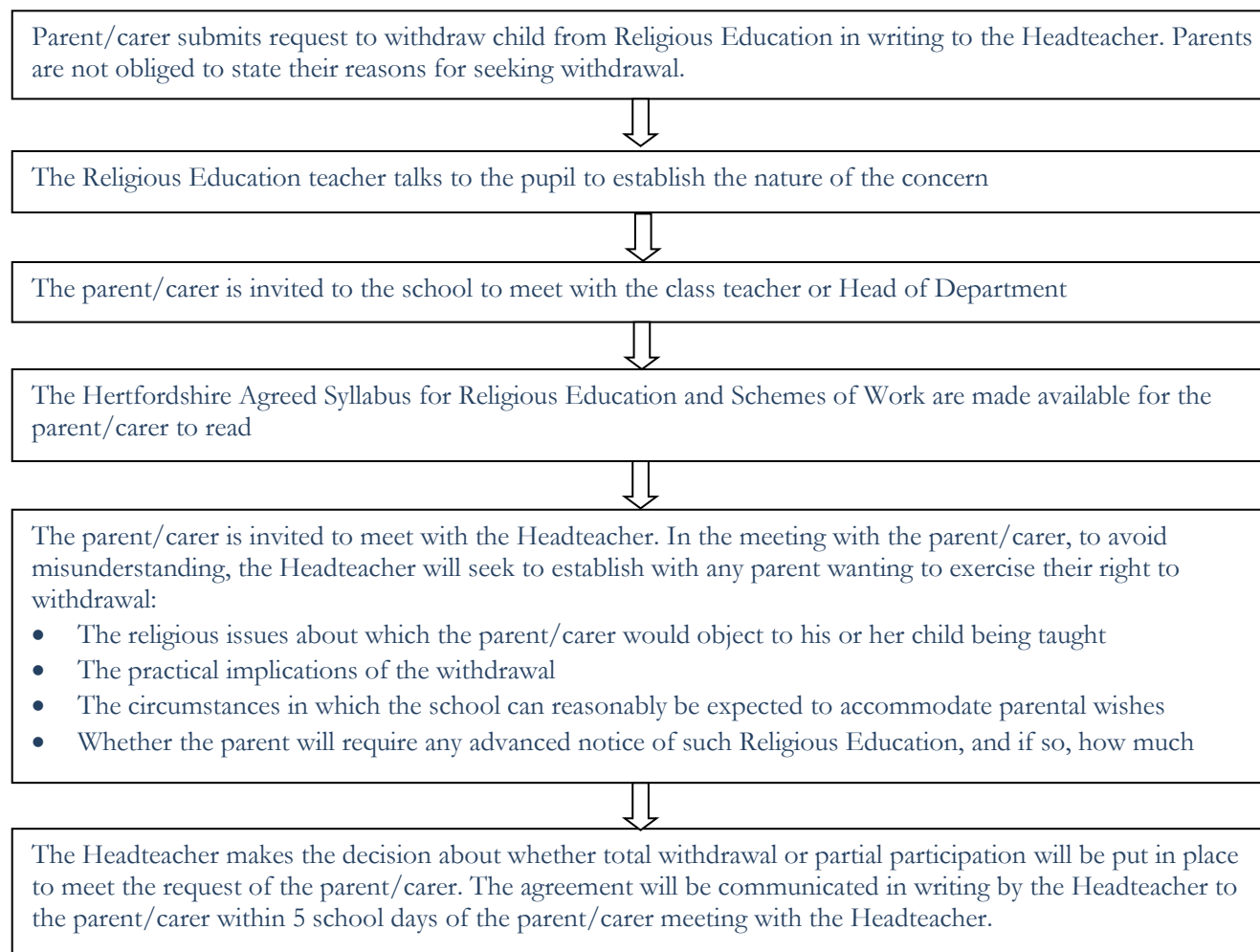
As an academy, Watford Grammar School for Girls follows the Hertfordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education (Hertfordshire SACRE, 2023-28.) See: <https://thegrid.org.uk/assets/hertfordshire-agreed-syllabus-religious-education-2023-2028-v3.pdf>

3. Withdrawal from Religious Education

3.1 Exercising Parental Right to Withdrawal from Religious Education and/or Collective Worship

In following the Hertfordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education, Watford Grammar School for Girls bases its response to requests for withdrawal from Religious Education on Hertfordshire guidance on such requests. See: <https://thegrid.org.uk/assets/right-of-withdrawal-guidance-2019.pdf>

The procedure for withdrawal from Religious Education is as follows:



For specific collective events in which worship is an element, for example, Founder's Day and Carol Concert, parents may request withdrawal from the event in writing to the Headteacher.

3.1 Accommodating a pupil who has been withdrawn from Religious Education

Unless the child is being provided with a religious education away from the school premises the school continues to be responsible for the supervision of any child withdrawn by its parent from RE,

- This may mean that the child takes work to another class, or joins a parallel class who is working on a different area of the curriculum.
- A pupil may sit in an area away from the classroom where another adult is supervising a small group of pupils.
- A teacher may withdraw the pupil within the classroom where the RE is taking place.
- Where possible alternative curriculum planning for one pupil should be avoided, class teachers may draw on, play areas, listening stations, libraries, topic books, computers and extension or support activities to provide natural alternatives to the RE.
- It may be possible for the parents to send their child some alternative work/ reading.
- Withdrawal should not be seen as a chance for pupils to 'catch up' with homework.