



Parental Right to withdraw their child from parts of the Curriculum

Victoria Primary School delivers a carefully constructed curriculum to all pupils. The curriculum is designed to equip pupils with knowledge, skills and understanding through high academic expectation and achievement as well as through appropriate social, moral, spiritual and cultural development.

The curriculum is divided into four parts:

- The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

The early years foundation stage (EYFS) sets standards for the learning, development and care of your child from birth to 5 years old. All schools and Ofsted-registered early years providers must follow the EYFS, including childminders, preschools, nurseries and school reception classes.

- The National Curriculum

Maintained schools in England are legally required to follow the statutory national curriculum which sets out in programmes of study, on the basis of key stages, subject content for those subjects that should be taught to all pupils.

- Religious Provision

All state schools are also required to make provision for a daily act of collective worship and must teach religious education (RE) to pupils at every key stage.

- Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

All schools should make provision for personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE), drawing on good practice.

Parents **do not** have the right to withdraw their child from any aspect of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum or any part of any subject which forms the National Curriculum. These curriculum aspects are the legal entitlement of every child. This includes biological aspects of animal growth and reproduction that are essential elements of National Curriculum Science.

Parents **do** have the right to withdraw their child from any aspect of Religious Provision or the Sex and Relationships aspect of Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education, as detailed below:

Religious Education

Parents have the right to choose whether or not to withdraw their child from RE without influence from the school. The Head of School will always seek to discuss this decision with parents, with a view to sharing the educational objectives and content of the RE syllabus. In this way, parents can make an informed decision. Where parents have requested that their child is withdrawn, their right must be respected, and where RE is integrated in the curriculum, the school will need to discuss the arrangements with the parents to explore how the child's withdrawal can be best accommodated. If pupils are withdrawn from RE, the school has a duty to supervise them, though not to provide additional teaching or to incur extra cost. Pupils will usually remain on school premises.

Collective Worship

The parental right to withdraw a child from attending collective worship is freely exercisable and school will approve any such request. Parents are not obliged to state their reasons for seeking withdrawal.

The right of withdrawal from collective worship would normally be exercised through the physical withdrawal of the pupil from the place where the act of worship is taking place. Indeed the school could insist that this is the way the right is to be implemented. If, however, both the parent and the school agree that the pupil should be allowed to remain physically present during the collective worship but not take part in it, nothing in the law prevents this.

To avoid misunderstanding, the head teacher will seek to establish with any parent wanting to exercise the right of withdrawal:

- the elements of worship in which the parent would object to the child taking part;
- the practical implications of withdrawal; and
- whether the parent will require any advanced notice of such worship, and, if so, how much.

Sex and Relationships aspects of Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Education

Parents are free to withdraw their children from Sex and Relationships aspects of the PSHE curriculum if they wish to do so. The only exceptions to this are the biological aspects of animal growth and reproduction that are essential elements of National Curriculum Science.

The Head of School will always seek to discuss this decision with parents, with a view to sharing the educational objectives and content of the Sex and Relationships syllabus. In this way, parents can make an informed decision. Where parents have requested that their child is withdrawn, their right must be respected, and where Sex and Relationships Education is integrated in the curriculum, the school will need to discuss the arrangements with the parents to explore how the child's withdrawal can be best accommodated. If pupils are withdrawn from these aspects of PSHE, the school has a duty to supervise them, though not to provide additional teaching or to incur extra cost. Pupils will usually remain on school premises.