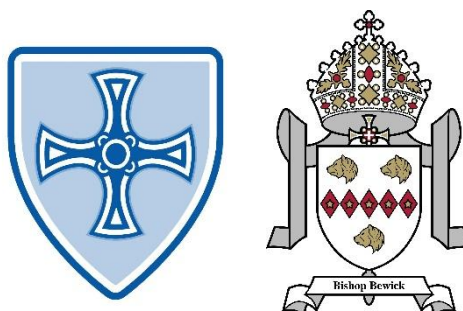


St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School Walbottle



Withdrawal from Religious Education

Consultation that has taken place			
Date Formally Approved By Governors	23 rd June 2026		
Date policy Became Effective	24 th June 2026		
Review Date	June 2028		
Person Responsible for Implementation and Monitoring	HT ✓	Govs	
Source of Policy	CES	LA ✓	School ✓

This policy was approved by the Local Governing Committee on 23/06/2026

Signed *BABones* Chair of Governors

The place of RE in the Catholic school curriculum

Religious Education is the "core of the core curriculum" in a Catholic school (Pope St John Paul II). Placing RE at the core of the curriculum in Catholic schools helps the school to fulfil its mission to educate the whole person in discerning the meaning of their existence, since "Religious Education is concerned not only with intellectual knowledge but also includes emotional and affective learning." (Religious Education Curriculum Directory p4) Furthermore, religiously literate children and young people are able to engage in a fully informed critique of all knowledge, "leading, for example, to an understanding of the relationship between science and religion or history, and between theology, sport and the human body." (Religious Education Curriculum Directory p4)

The outcome of excellent Religious Education is religiously literate and engaged young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to reflect spiritually, and think ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life (Religious Education Curriculum Directory p6).

Religious Education at St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School is at the core of the curriculum. The school will ensure that parents are fully informed about the RE curriculum and have the opportunity to discuss this with school staff.

The right of withdrawal from RE

It is acknowledged by the Local Governing Committee (LGC) that parents are their child's first teachers. The governors take their responsibility of providing good quality Religious Education. They respect that in law parents have the right to ask for their child to be withdrawn partly or fully from Religious Education in order to offer religious education for their child which is not provided by the school. They recognise that the right to withdrawal is a conscience and not a general opt-out request.

Parents do not have to offer a reason for the withdrawal but the request will need to be discussed in order for the school to make arrangements should the parent wish to proceed.

Managing the right of withdrawal from RE

If a parent requests that their child is wholly or partially withdrawn from RE lessons the headteacher will offer to meet the parents to discuss the request and to make the parent fully aware of the content of the RE curriculum. This will include the offer of observing a RE lesson.

The headteacher will explain the options available of the parent either providing work for the child linked to their own religious beliefs or arranging for the child to receive religious education linked to their own belief at another site without impacting adversely on the child's attendance.

For the first option, the headteacher will explain who will supervise the pupil, where that supervision will take place and that the pupil can do work set by the parent to further educate their child in their own religious belief. The work set will be monitored by the person supervising the child's withdrawal to ensure tasks set are completed but that the assessment of such work will be done by the parent. Depending on school resources, the withdrawn pupil may be moved to another venue within the school, however the child may remain in the classroom and simply not participate in the RE lesson.

The headteacher will make it clear that the pupil will not be able to receive instruction in National Curriculum subjects during the time of withdrawal as this time is given over to a Religious Education.

If after viewing the RE curriculum and meeting with the headteacher the parent still wishes to remove their child from RE, the headteacher will ask the parent to make a written request for withdrawal.

This written request will be acknowledged in writing with an explanation of the agreed arrangements for that academic year.

A separate request is needed for each academic year and for each individual child within a family.

This policy will be monitored and reviewed every two years.

This policy was approved by the Local Governing Committee on 23.06.26

Signed  Chair of Governors