Religious Education (RE) Curriculum and Right of Withdrawal

At The Vyne Community School our Religious Education (RE) curriculum is designed to be inclusive, objective and academically rigorous. We explore a diverse range of religions and worldviews to foster mutual respect, critical thinking and religious literacy. Our aim is to prepare students for life in a pluralistic society, rather than to promote or advocate for any specific faith or belief system.

The Right to Withdraw

In accordance with Section 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, parents and carers have the statutory right to withdraw their children from all or part of Religious Education (RE) lessons and Collective Worship.

We fully respect this legal right. Parents and carers do not need to provide a reason or justification for choosing to exercise this right.

Scope and Limitations of Withdrawal

- **Applicability:** The right to withdraw applies strictly to dedicated RE lessons and daily acts of collective worship.
- **Other Curriculum Areas:** This right does not extend to other mandatory National Curriculum subjects where religious topics or perspectives may naturally arise. For example, students cannot be withdrawn from historical studies of religious events in History, the analysis of faith-based texts in English, or the exploration of diverse cultural views in Relationships and Sex Education (RSE).

Supervision and Duty of Care

When a student is withdrawn from RE lessons, the school maintains a strict duty of care:

- The student will be safely accommodated and supervised on the school premises (typically in the school library or a designated quiet study area).
- The school is not responsible for providing alternative religious instruction or bespoke academic work during this time.
- Parents and carers have the right to provide their own educational or religious reading materials for their child to work through independently during these periods, provided they are safe and appropriate for a school environment.

How to Request a Withdrawal

We strongly encourage parents and carers to review our full RE curriculum overview published on the website before making a final decision. Often, reviewing the objective academic content clears up any misconceptions about the nature of modern RE.

If you still wish to proceed with a partial or full withdrawal, please follow these steps:

1. **Submit a Request:** Please submit your request in writing (via letter or email) addressed directly to the headteacher to headteacher@vyne.hants.sch.uk
2. **Curriculum Discussion:** Upon receiving your request, the school will typically invite you to a brief, informal meeting or phone call with the headteacher or the curriculum leader of RE. The sole purpose of this discussion is to clarify which elements of the curriculum you wish your child to be excluded from (full or partial) and to ensure you are fully informed of the curriculum's aims. It is not an attempt to veto your decision.
3. **Confirmation:** Following the discussion, the school will formally log the arrangement and notify your child's teachers of the supervision adjustments.