

# **SWINDON ACADEMY STAFF POLICIES**

## **Withdrawal from RE Lessons Policy (L19)**

Swindon Academy respects the right of parents to withdraw their child from RE lessons.

RE lessons at Swindon Academy will teach students about Christianity and other principal world religions and faiths. While the Christian faith is the majority culture with historical roots in Britain, Swindon Academy also acknowledges our multi-faith and multi-cultural society. Swindon Academy honours and respects the position of those of other faiths and traditions and welcomes the contribution that they bring. In this way Swindon Academy will ensure that RE lessons are fully inclusive. Nevertheless, Swindon Academy is required to respect parental rights of withdrawal as outlined in the Education Act 1993.

In responding to requests for withdrawal from RE lessons the Academy will:

- a) The Associate Principal will arrange to meet with parents and the student to discuss the issues of concern;
- b) Parents will be invited to join a RE lesson so that they have first-hand knowledge of what happens;
- c) Some compromises may be possible whereby students are able to be included in the activity for some of the time or for some part of the activity;
- d) Where parents continue to request withdrawal, Swindon Academy will provide a suitable alternative for the child;
- e) The Academy will seek to ensure that the student feels fully included within the academy community.

Where parents make such a request, the Academy will ask for that request in writing and to arrange for the request to be reviewed annually.