

Religion, Philosophy & Ethics

Advice for Parents

We are proud to teach inclusive and plural Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE), following the local Agreed Syllabus, to all our pupils, and to respect and affirm all the religions and worldviews represented in our community. Different religions and worldviews are discussed without partiality. The aims and objectives of RPE at Keswick School can be read on the website and parents can also view the curriculum plans. We are happy to talk to parents about RPE. Students benefit from discussing their beliefs, values and responses to the issues and big questions we discuss at home.

In the UK, parents still have the right to withdraw their children from religious education (RE) on the grounds that they wish to provide their own RE. Parents have the right to request that their child be withdrawn from some or all of religious education.

Should a parent wish to withdraw their child from RPE lessons they should notify the Headteacher in writing. Before granting any request the Headteacher will discuss the request with parents and, as appropriate, with the child to ensure that their wishes are understood and to clarify the nature and purpose of the curriculum.

Once those discussions have taken place, we will respect the parents' request to withdraw the child if they still wish. Parents can make a request for this decision to be reversed at any time.

If a pupil is withdrawn, the school has a duty of care to look after the pupil, but not to provide alternative education. Students will be given a safe and supervised place to be whilst the RPE lesson takes place. They can use this time to read, do self-study or complete religious education work set by their parents. This time should not be used for other curriculum subject areas.

Students at Keswick School enjoy their RPE lessons and value the chance to explore different perspectives.