

# DUNDONALD PRIMARY SCHOOL



Inspire. Believe. Achieve

Arrangements for withdrawal from Religious Education and Collective Worship in all grant-aided schools.

DE Circular Number: 2026/09



April 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to inform you about the current legislation relating to Religious Education (RE) and collective worship in all grant-aided schools in Northern Ireland, as well as your rights as a parent and the duties placed upon schools.

### **1. Legal Position**

Under Article 21 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, all publicly funded schools except nursery schools must provide RE and collective worship. RE must include the statutory Core Syllabus.

### **2. Your Right to Withdraw**

Parents have an unqualified right to withdraw their child wholly or partially from RE and/or collective worship, without giving reasons. Schools must accept requests immediately and confidentially.

### **3. School Responsibilities**

Schools must provide annual information on RE and collective worship, offer a simple withdrawal process, acknowledge requests promptly, and ensure suitable supervised alternative activities for withdrawn pupils.

### **4. Further Information**

A standard withdrawal form is attached below in Annex A and should be passed on to your child's teacher.

**Our rotating monthly timetable in school is:**

|        |                               |
|--------|-------------------------------|
| Week 1 | Hymn Practice                 |
| Week 2 | Visitor                       |
| Week 3 | Visitor                       |
| Week 4 | Monthly pupil Progress Awards |

Yours sincerely,

Mr Massey

Principal

## Standard Withdrawal Proforma

## Annex A



### Section 1: Pupil Details

Name of pupil: \_\_\_\_\_

Year group/class: \_\_\_\_\_

### Section 2: Parent/Carer Details

Name of parent/carers submitting this request: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to pupil: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred contact email: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred contact phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

### Section 3: Request for Withdrawal

(Please tick all that apply)

I request that my child be withdrawn from:

#### Religious Education

- ☐ All RE
- ☐ Specific RE topics/units (please specify):

#### Collective Worship

- ☐ All collective worship (including Hymn Practice)
- ☐ Specific elements of collective worship (please specify e.g. prayers, hymns, liturgical acts, assembly, particular speakers) please specify:

**Section 4: Start Date**

I request that withdrawal arrangements begin:

☐ Immediately

or

From (date): \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

**Section 5: Confirmation**

By signing below, I confirm that I am exercising my statutory right to withdraw my child from Religious Education and/or collective worship (delete as appropriate) and understand that:

- I do not need to give reasons for this request;
- The school must implement this request promptly and without negotiation;
- This request will remain in place until I submit a written request to end or amend it.

Signature of parent/carer: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

**Section 6: School Use Only (to be completed by the school)**

Date received: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Acknowledgement issued: ☐ Yes – date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Arrangements begin: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Alternative arrangements provided: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Recorded in confidential register:**

☐ Yes – date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Name of staff member processing request: \_\_\_\_\_