

## **DLETB on Religious Education provision.**

DDLETB recognises the right of parents, or students of over 18, attending state funded schools to withdraw from classes in religious instruction. DDLETB is cognisant of the sources from which these rights derive and as such why these rights must be respected by ETB schools.

Article 44.2.4 – guarantees that children attending publicly-funded schools may not be compelled to attend religious instruction classes.

Article 42.1 - recognises the inalienable rights of parents to provide for their children's religious and moral education.

### **Education Act 1998 – Section 30**

Section 30 (2)(e) – provides for a parent to withdraw their child from any subject being provided by a school, as part of the curriculum, that is contrary to the conscience of the parent or in the case of a student who has reached the age of 18 years, the student.

With regard to alternative subject provision, matters of curricular provision and timetabling are the responsibility of each individual school to develop in line with the Department of Education and Skills regulations for post - primary schools and in line the teaching and other resources available to the school to meet the needs of each child in the school community in so far as is practicable within these arrangements.

Schools are not obliged to supervise students outside of the Religious Education class (or other subject classes if a parent wishes to withdraw their child)) or to provide another subject for the student as an alternative if resources are not available. Students that are over eighteen can legally opt out of Religion Class and supervise themselves outside the school if required.

In so far as is reasonable in this context DDLETB encourages its schools to reach a satisfactory arrangement with parents in this regard.

It is of note that Religious Education is a recognised subject within the Junior Cycle programme, developed as such by NCCA, with due regard to all faiths and none. It does not need to be taught from a particular denominational perspective, is timetabled in schools as such and enjoyed by many students of all faiths and none.