



EXEMPTION FROM PARTICULAR CLASSES

Section 72 of the *School Education Act 1999* provides for a parent, on the grounds of conscientious objection, to seek an exemption for a child from attendance at classes at which a particular part of a course of study is taught.

The reason for this provision is to ensure that government schools take account of the culture, values and beliefs of parents and students.

In these guidelines, the meaning of “conscientious objection” is defined as a person who has a conscientious objection to a child participating in a particular class if the person’s objection is based on a personal, philosophical, religious or educational belief involving a conviction that participation in the class would be prejudicial to the child.

REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION

Under section 72 of the *School Education Act 1999*, a parent or guardian may in writing request the principal to grant an exemption for the child from attendance at classes. The principal is to notify the parent/guardian of the decision to grant, grant on conditions or refuse a request for exemption. Copies of the decision are to be provided to all staff associated with a student for whom the exemption has been sought.

In accordance with record keeping responsibilities outlined in the Department of Education’s *Records Management* policy, the principal or their nominee needs to maintain a record of parents’ requests for exemption.

An exemption may be revoked if any condition is not observed.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Upon request by a parent/guardian, schools are to provide detailed information about a course or program to assist the parent to make an informed decision about the participation of their child in that program.

Schools are to provide information to students, when appropriate, to assist them in selecting courses or programs which are consistent with their cultural and religious beliefs and moral values.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Principals or their nominees are expected to make reasonable efforts to provide alternative means for exempted students to achieve the same outcomes as other students, as outlined in the requirements of the School Curriculum and Standards Authority's Western Australian Curriculum and Assessment Outline to provide a balanced curriculum for all students.

Under the School Curriculum and Standards Authority's Pre-primary to Year 10: Teaching, Assessing and Reporting Policy, principals and teachers are required to engage in ongoing communication with parents about student achievement and progress. Parents are to be advised if their child's achievement and assessment may be adversely affected by exemption from particular classes.

DUTY OF CARE

In accordance with the Department's *Duty of Care* policy, schools are to provide appropriate supervision for exempted students within the limits of available resources. A condition of exemption may involve parental responsibility for the supervision of exempted students.

RELEVANT LEGISLATION/LEGAL AUTHORITY

School Education Act 1999, Section 72

School Curriculum and Standards Authority Act 1997