

Exemption from Curriculum Procedures

Updated August 2025

A parent or carer may give written notice that they conscientiously object on religious grounds to their child being taught a particular part of a course of study) as per [section 26 of the Education Act 1990](#).

'A course of study' is part of the curriculum and refers to the key learning areas (such as English; mathematics; personal development, health and physical education [PDHPE]). The syllabus documents for key learning areas are on the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) and provide details of the parts of each key learning area.

If a parent or carer has concerns about what their child is learning in class, they should first:

- speak with their child's teacher, who can provide them with further information about the curriculum
- speak with the school principal if they continue to have concerns.

To apply for a certificate of exemption, parents or carers will need to send written notice to curriculumenquiry@det.nsw.edu.au and include the following information:

- student's name
- school
- year
- principal's name
- confirmation they have raised their concerns with the principal
- subject or key learning area and term it will be taught
- topic or part of the course of study that is being objected to
- specific source of religious objection – authority (for example, Bible, Koran, Torah), chapter, verse and confirmation of its general adherence by members of the faith
- details of a religious authority who may be contacted for further information about the religious nature of the request
- child's view about exemption where the child is in secondary school.

An example of an email or letter is provided below:

I am writing to conscientiously object to my child [insert name] in year [insert year] at [insert school] attending a class in [key learning area] on [topic] in Term [insert term number] on religious grounds.

The religious grounds include

I rely on [insert religious text, chapter verse].

Contact details are provided for [insert name and contact details of religious authority] who can be contacted to provide information about the religious nature of the request.

I raised my concerns with the principal [insert name] at [insert school] on [insert date].

Parents or carers do not need a certificate of exemption for school programs and activities not related to the curriculum. In these cases, parents or carers may request their children do not participate in school programs and activities, such as assemblies, special days or guest speakers. [Refer to the Controversial issues in schools policy and procedures.](#)

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