[YOUR NAME]

[YOUR ADDRESS]

**Re: Opting Out of Religious Instruction**

[DATE]

Dear [TEACHER’S NAME],

I/We would like to inform you of my/our decision to opt out [CHILD’S NAME] from religious instruction, as we are raising him/her without a religion.

I/We understand that given the lack of resources that it is difficult to opt out, but I trust that we can work together to find a solution that will work as best as possible for [CHILD’S NAME] and will not burden you with extra work.

At a minimum, it is very important to me/us that [CHILD’S NAME] does not take part in the 2.5 hours of discrete faith formation classes. Ideally, it would be great if he/she could be taken out of the room with other children who may be opting out to do other work, but I/we understand that this may not be possible.

It is equally important that [CHILD’S NAME] is reassured that it is ok not to have to join in with prayers or religious songs or blessings. Obviously, this would be done subtly so as not to embarrass his/her.

Where it is possible, I/we would appreciate it if [CHILD’S NAME] did not visit a church for prayer services and might remain in another classroom. The same would apply to any school-based assemblies involving prayer services.

I/We understand that the religious ethos permeates throughout the school day so I/we understand that it is not going to be possible to shield him/her from every aspect of religious life in the school. All I/we can do, is limit it as much as possible.

I/we would appreciate it if you could meet with me/us to discuss the arrangements for opting out child out of religion in your class. You might even discuss with the principal or Board of Management the possibility of coming up with a whole school policy as I/we imagine our situation is becoming more and more common.

Yours faithfully,

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