

Department of Religious Education

Mission Statement

We are a Catholic community whose mission is to fully prepare our students for the wider world and to send them into it equipped for life and for the service of others. We come together from diverse backgrounds, united by Christ, by the highest aspirations and by a thirst for excellence to instil in our students a respect for themselves, for others and for their environment. We take our inspiration for Jesus' commandment to "love one another"

Aims and Objectives

The Catholic vision of education promotes the dignity and freedom of every person as created in the image and likeness of God. Within this vision, Religious Education at All Saints is a journey of formation, rooted in Gospel Values, involving school, family and parish communities. The Department recognises that each student may be at any stage of understanding and, therefore, the programme of study is developmental in that it provides challenges to move onward in understanding and in attitudes with regard to God, self, other people and the world.

For all our students, Religious Education is a rigorous academic discipline, taught, developed and resourced in line with all curriculum areas and aims to promote and enrich:

- knowledge and understanding of Catholic faith and life
- knowledge and understanding of other world faiths
- knowledge and understanding of the response of faith to the ultimate questions about human life
- the skills required to engage in examination of and reflection upon religious belief and practice

In addition, we aim to develop awareness and appreciation of Catholic belief and an understanding of its impact on personal and social behaviour. We foster appropriate attitudes, such as respect for truth, respect for the views of others, awareness of the spiritual, of moral responsibility, of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life and the challenge of living in a multicultural, multifaith society.

The outcome of Religious Education at All Saints is religiously literate young people who can take up their place in society with the knowledge, understanding and skills to think spiritually, ethically and theologically. In selecting All Saints as a school for their child, parents indicate their positive support for the religious and spiritual development of their children.

Religious Education Provision

Key Stage 3: students are taught in mixed ability groups and all schemes follow the curriculum directory. There have been significant changes to the KS3 schemes of work in recent years to integrate skills-based assessment alongside adaptive teaching materials.

Key Stage 4: students are currently taught in sets according to ability and follow the Eduqas Religious Studies route B GCSE course – Component 1: Foundational Catholic Theology, Component 2: Applied Catholic Theology and Component 3: Judaism. At Key Stage 3 RE is allocated 10% of curriculum time and at Key Stage 4 RE is allocated 12% of the curriculum time.

Key Stage 5: 'A' Level students follow the OCR Religious Studies course – Philosophy of Religion, Religion and Ethics and Developments in Christian Thought. The department takes great pride in the fact that Religious Studies results have been consistently high and are one of the top performing subjects at A Level. The Religious Education course for all other students at this key stage is broadly based on the National Framework through the KS5 Core RE programme.

Department

In line with Core departments across the school, the RE department will be led by a Director for RE who is accountable for the standards of achievement and performance of the department and is supported by a KS3 Curriculum Leader. Within the department there are currently 4 full-time and 5 part-time members of staff of which 3 staff have whole school responsibilities. The department has a suite of five specialist classrooms and a departmental office.

Teaching and Learning

Teachers of Religious Education employ a variety of appropriate teaching methods, taking account of the age, ability and learning styles of students. The department has embraced the school's commitment to innovation and research into learning and is at the forefront of putting theory into practice in the classroom through the use of closing the literacy gap, questioning and modelling strategies.

Chaplaincy

The school has a Chaplaincy Co-ordinator and she is responsible for the liturgical life of the school community. There are opportunities to be involved in continuing to develop the work of this key aspect of school life.

Policy Statements

Equal Opportunities

The Religious Education Department fosters positive attitudes and values concerning those of different race, faith, gender, sexuality, age or ability. We believe these are essential for the development of mature human beings in the likeness of Christ.

Assessment/Target Setting/Reporting

The methods used to assess the performance of students in Religious Education respect and promote individual dignity. Students are helped to grow to a realistic awareness of their potential and to identify strategies to enable them to develop it. We believe such an approach makes a significant contribution to the spiritual and moral development of students.

Special Educational Needs

The Religious Education Department respects the uniqueness of each individual and responds with imagination and sensitivity to those with special educational needs; a flexibility of approach and the commitment to provide appropriate resources is an ongoing area of development. We believe that those with special educational needs also have gifts.

Finally

Students learn from the values and principles which underpin the curriculum, from other activities offered at our school and from the quality of relationships which they experience. In the context of this and the school's mission, the Religious Education Department is committed to driving forward the school's aspirations to prepare our students for their life as Christians in the community.

Members of the department are hardworking, enthusiastic and committed to Catholic Education.

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