

ST PETER'S SCHOOL

POLICY ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Introduction

The School believes that the primary purpose of Catholic Religious Education is to come to know and understand God's revelation which is fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. In the person of Christ, the deepest meaning of what it is to be human — that we are created by God and through the Holy Spirit united with Christ in his Incarnation — is discovered, and this is a central educational task of our school.

Religious Education is a core subject within the curriculum of our Catholic school; and is at the heart of the philosophy of Catholic education. It teaches about the faith in the context of a school which proclaims the Gospel, and invites the individual to respond to the message of Christ. As the individual responds to this invitation, growth in faith and knowledge helps the pupil to respond to the call to holiness and understand the fullness of what it is to be human. For some, then, Religious Education will also be received as evangelisation and for some, catechesis. Religious Education sows the dynamic seed of the Gospel and seeks to keep in touch with the other elements of our pupils' knowledge and education.

Aims:

- 1 To present engagingly a comprehensive content, which is the basis of knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith;
- 2 To enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively;
- 3 To present an authentic vision of the Church's moral and social teaching so that pupils can make a critique of the underlying trends in contemporary culture and society;
- 4 To raise pupils' awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities in order to respect and understand them;
- 5 To develop the critical faculties of pupils so that they can relate their Catholic faith to daily life;
- 6 To stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith;
- 7 To enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through Religious Education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum.
- 8 To bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture.
- 9 To enable students to reflect on their own spiritual journey and to share this journey with others in a safe and meaningful environment.
10. To teach students the importance of faith and religious commitment in relationships and to make them aware that their body is a temple of God that it needs to be given the utmost respect (PSHE).

Objectives:

To embrace the call to evangelisation with the aim to develop religiously literate young people who are engaged with their faith, or invited to become so. To develop young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills – appropriate to their age and capacity – to reflect spiritually, and think ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.

Approved by SWC Committee:
Ratified by Full Governing Body:
Due for review:

11 June 2014

9 July 2014

July 2017