



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT INTENT
Discover, Develop, Rejoice

Dear Lord,

Guide us to greater wisdom through our learning in RE. Enable us to develop a greater appreciation of our own faith, and a better understanding of the faith of others. Give us courage to put our faith into action. Amen.

(RE Department Prayer)

The Religious Education curriculum at St Cecilia's equips pupils with the skills and knowledge needed for them to understand, interpret and flourish in the world in which they live. The curriculum aims to develop our pupils into religiously literate young adults with a wealth of knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith, the faith of other world beliefs, as well as an opportunity to develop and question their own faith, whatever this may be. Fundamental to this is the knowledge of core scripture and practices and the understanding of the variety of ways in which these have been interpreted by followers and the impact on the lives of individuals and on the world.

A deep and rich learning curriculum is characterised by the retention, interleaving, spacing and retrieval of knowledge and skills. Through the Religious Education curriculum this is achieved by regularly revisiting key concepts and building on them. By regular, low-stakes testing pupils are encouraged to regularly retrieve their prior learning for it to become deep-seated and build their confidence.

The Religious Education curriculum equips pupils with a wealth of knowledge and understanding that relates to the bigger picture so that pupils can see the relevance of what they are learning. The curriculum encourages deep thinking and questioning. Pupils will be challenged to reflect on their purpose in the world and the impact they can make on it by their exploration of Christianity and other world beliefs.

Catholic Education Service: Why is Religious Education important in Catholic schools?

Religious Education is the "core of the core curriculum" in a Catholic school (Pope St John Paul II). Placing RE at the core of the curriculum in Catholic schools helps the school to fulfill its mission to educate the whole person in discerning the meaning of their existence..... It is in the mystery of the Word made flesh that the mystery of what it is to be human truly becomes clear. Without religious education, pupils would be deprived of an essential element of their formation and personal development, which helps them attain a vital harmony between faith and culture." (Religious Education curriculum Directory p4). Furthermore, religiously literate children and young people are able to engage in a fully informed critique of all knowledge, "leading, for example, to an understanding of the relationship between science and religion or history, and between theology, sport and the human body." (Religious Education Curriculum Directory p4).

The outcome of excellent Religious Education is religiously literate and engaged young people who have the knowledge, understanding and skills..... to reflect spiritually, and think ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life (Religious Education Curriculum Directory p6).