



Religious Studies – Curriculum Intent Statement

Vision

“You will shine among them like stars in the sky” - Philippians 2: 15 – 16

The Religious Studies faculty is built around the teaching of St Paul – we firmly believe in the value and importance of each pupil, recognising their individual gifts and talents, giving them the opportunity to grow and develop into the young people they are called to be. Our aim is to provide our students with a balanced RE curriculum that supports the development of their own religious literacy.

At St Paul’s Catholic School, the Religious Studies curriculum is designed to nurture the spiritual, moral, and intellectual development of each student, fostering a deep understanding and respect for the Catholic faith and its teachings. We aim to cultivate a learning environment that promotes personal faith development, moral integrity, and a commitment to social justice, in alignment with the mission of the Catholic Church.

The intent of our Religious Studies curriculum is to provide students with:

1. **A Deep Understanding of Catholic Doctrine:** We seek to develop students' knowledge of Catholic beliefs, practices, and the rich tradition of the Church, including Scripture, theology, and Church history. Our curriculum emphasizes the importance of understanding key teachings of Jesus Christ, the sacraments, and the moral framework rooted in Catholic social teaching.
2. **Spiritual Formation and Faith Development:** In a Catholic school, the academic study of religion is intertwined with opportunities for spiritual growth. Through prayer, reflection, and the celebration of the liturgical year, we encourage students to engage personally with their faith and deepen their relationship with God.
3. **Encouragement of Ethical Living and Social Responsibility:** Our curriculum is designed to help students develop the moral framework needed to navigate the complexities of modern life in a manner consistent with the Gospel. We explore key ethical issues such as justice, peace, care for creation, and the dignity of the human person, encouraging students to actively live out their faith in service to others.
4. **Interfaith Dialogue and Respect:** While our Catholic identity shapes the curriculum, we also emphasize the importance of interfaith understanding and respect. Students learn about the beliefs and practices of other faith traditions, fostering an environment of tolerance, dialogue, and mutual respect.
5. **Personal Reflection and Critical Thinking:** We aim to develop students’ abilities to reflect on their own beliefs, question thoughtfully, and articulate their faith in a reasoned and compassionate manner. By encouraging critical thinking, we support students in engaging with the broader world, helping them to understand and contribute to conversations about faith, ethics, and society.

Our Religious Studies curriculum is not only about acquiring knowledge but also about nurturing students to become compassionate, responsible, and faithful individuals who are equipped to serve the Church and society. It is our hope that through their studies, students will grow into young people who seek to embody the love and truth of Christ in all aspects of their lives.