



## 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 in Philippians that states, ‘You will shine among them like stars in the sky.’ We firmly believe in the value and importance of each pupil, recognising their individual gifts and talents, and giving them the opportunity to achieve, belong and thrive to develop into the young people they are called to be. Our aim is to provide our students with a broad and balanced RE curriculum that is ambitious yet supportive in their academic, spiritual and moral development.

At St Paul’s Catholic School, the Religious Studies curriculum is designed to nurture each student holistically, 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 spiral curriculum is built on the key teaching principles within Religious Studies, that allow each pupil to build up the skills to understand, discern and respond. These themes are threaded through KS3, support pupils in their transition to KS4, where they build upon these skills further to describe, explain and evaluate. The strong foundations along with the high expectations of staff, allows pupils to grow and develop thus supporting them as they approach their external exams in both KS4 and KS5.

It is the vision of the department to not only provide pupils with opportunities to acquire knowledge but also nurture 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 continue to grow into young people who seek to embody the love and truth of Christ in all aspects of their lives.