

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & COLLECTIVE WORSHIP POLICY**

The role of Religious Education in a Catholic School is central to the Mission of the Church. St. John Paul II recognised this early in his Papacy in his Exhortation to the church on the importance of catechesis.

'Religious education in Catholic schools identifies the educational goals of such schools. In fact, "the special character of the Catholic school, the underlying reason for it, the reason why Catholic parents should prefer it, is precisely the quality of the religious instruction integrated into the education of the pupils" (John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation [\*Catechesi tradendae\*](#), 16 October 1979, 69).'

In accordance with this aspiration it is the responsibility of all staff to enable our students to develop spiritually and morally as well as academically. In this aim we receive support from local clergy, Catholic agencies and other organisations.

### **Religious Education**

The centrality of Religious Education is emphasised by its place in the timetable:

- Most students completing the course are entered for GCSE Religious Education Certificate (*Bishops conference approved GCSE*).
- All students at Key Stage 3 are engaged in the programme of study following the guidelines laid down by the Bishop's Curriculum Directory.
- Religious Education is based firmly on the teachings of the Catholic Church and respects and values other Christian traditions and world faiths.
- The Catholic mission of the College is the responsibility of all staff, not solely those timetabled to teach Religious Education.

### **Collective Act of Worship**

- Prayer or spiritual reflection takes place during morning and afternoon registrations, led either by the teacher or student(s). Tutors will be supplied a weekly collection of prayers and reflections. The staff handbook will contain common prayers such the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the prayer of St George.
- A number of College Masses for students take place in the hall and include Holy Days of Obligation when these fall on a school day. The maximum number of students that can be accommodated in the College hall is three year groups, so masses are available to all students unless extenuating circumstances exist such as public examinations or priests who are unable to say two Masses.
- There is a Welcome Mass for all Year 7 families and a Year 11 Leaver's Mass at the start of the examination season, to which students and their families are invited.
- Additionally, there will from time to time be voluntary services (including Ash Wednesday) and other liturgies including the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent and Lent.
- All students will have a weekly Assembly in the school hall. When this venue is in use for examinations every endeavour will be made to relocate the assembly to other



venues. The assemblies will have spiritual/moral content, supplementing the daily prayer.

- The Angelus prayer is offered every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at College and is a fitting spiritual legacy from the Year of Faith.

Parents, students and teaching applicants will be made aware of this policy prior to admission to the College.

**This policy will be reviewed every three years.**

**Date of next review: May 2019**

**The Governing Body agreed this policy on 18 May 2016.**