

St Benedict's Catholic College



Religious education policy

Date reviewed	March 2022
Ratified by Governors	
Date of next review	March 2025

St Benedict's Catholic College Religious Education policy



Context

Through the centuries, the Church has educated young people and adults. The staff and students of St Benedict's witness daily to belief in Jesus Christ and the Catholic way of life.

At the college, religious education is, in the first instance, education in the Catholic Christian faith; students learn about and from the Catholic tradition.

"Religious education is central to the curriculum of the Catholic school and is at the heart of the philosophy of Catholic education. Religious education has developed in a way that reflects the particular identity of our Catholic schools in England and Wales. 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 evangelization and for some, catechesis."⁽¹⁾

Religious education enables students to build their sense of identity, which helps them flourish as citizens in a diverse society. Through religious education, students learn about other faiths and beliefs, promoting respect and understanding.

Religious Education is conducted as a partnership with parents: they are the first educators of their children in faith. The role of St Benedict's is to support the work begun in homes, parishes and primary schools, to help children explore and develop their faith as they journey through adolescence.

Religious education as a curriculum subject

The aim of RE is to produce *"religiously literate and engaged 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"*⁽²⁾

As a subject in the curriculum, RE is taught, developed and resourced with the same rigour and commitment as any other subject; it has the status of a core subject and is allocated 10% of teaching time across both key stages.

RE has its own content, methodology, assessment and culture, covering broad areas such as: God's self-revelation; the Church; celebration; and life in Christ. The subject matter within religious education also gives opportunities to promote an ethos of respect for others, challenge stereotypes, and build understanding of other cultures and beliefs. It is open to inspection and assessment by public examination and at diocesan level. It is an important contributory factor to the passing on of the community's faith from one generation to the next.

The RE curriculum is fully compliant with the Religious Education Curriculum Directory (3-19) (2012) and any more recent instructions. The GCSE undertaken by students at St Benedict's is also fully compliant with this (WJEC Eduqas Religious Studies Route B). Diocesan guidelines have been adhered to with regards to assessment: and we currently use the age-related standards, as directed by the education department at Brentwood Diocese. The Curriculum

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Directory is currently being updated, and when it is published (2022) we will ensure that our schemes of learning are adapted to meet with the demands.

⁽¹⁾ Religious Education Curriculum Directory (Bishops' Conference 2012) p3

⁽²⁾ Religious Education Curriculum Directory (Bishops' Conference 2012) p6

The Diocese will support all Catholic schools in their delivery of the requirements of the Curriculum Directory and other norms of the Bishops' Conference and provides guidance in this regard. Diocesan policy relating to schemes of work and programmes of study encourages individual schools to utilise whichever resources best suit the needs of the students in their schools. At St Benedict's we have developed a bespoke KS3 RE curriculum which focuses on the strands set out in the Curriculum Directory: Revelation, the Church, Life in Christ and Celebration. At KS4, the students will follow the WJEC Eduqas Route B Religious Studies course from 2021, which fully meets the directive of the Bishops' conference: Students study Foundational Catholic Theology in paper 1, Applied Catholic Theology in paper 2 and Judaism as the study of a second religion in paper 3.

Wider influence

The chaplaincy is at the heart of the day-to-day life of the college and there are close and vital links between the chaplain and the RE department. Religious education in its widest sense encourages students to develop their faith through worship, retreats, assemblies and action for social justice. Students develop an understanding and appreciation of diversity within the social, moral, spiritual and cultural curriculum, to which the RE department contributes significantly.

See also collective worship policy.

Definitions

Evangelisation - Introducing people to the Gospel

Catechesis - Teaching people who are already following a faith about their faith in more detail