

Fulfilling the Religious Education Requirements at St. Paul's

Philosophy

“The glory of God is each person fully alive.’ The curriculum at St Paul’s should encourage excellence and achievement by all pupils through the breadth of opportunity available, the quality of teaching and learning in the classroom and the motivation that comes from good relationships between staff and pupils.”

(A Vision for St Paul's)

Context

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales describes the 'centrality' of classroom Religious Education as a subject which should be considered the “core of the core curriculum”, with the primary goal of increasing the knowledge and understanding of the Christian message for all pupils in Catholic Schools. The Bishops have mandated that pupils are entitled to Religious Education which constitutes 10 % of the taught week until the end of Year 11 and 5 % of the taught week in Sixth Form.

The 10 % arose in response to the UK Government's National Curriculum implementation in 1988 which prescribed 10 % curriculum time for all core curriculum subjects. This was to ensure parity with other core curriculum subjects as well as to make clear that “Catholic schools have the responsibility to show that it is possible to study all of the subjects in the National Curriculum without lessening the attention and time given to Religious Education.”.

At St Paul's, there is no doubt that the teaching of Religious Education is highly regarded and of central importance to the school. The Department are staffed with highly qualified and committed subject experts; internal and external monitoring processes reveal a flagship department who are always striving to improve. Pupils value their Religious Education and results are consistently among the highest in the school.

Religious Education sits alongside the core subjects in recognition, staffing, funding and facilities. For example, in Year 7 when Independent Learning (homework) is only set for a proportion of the subjects in the first half term, these include Religious Education, alongside English, Mathematics and Science. There are 9 teaching members of the department, with staffing recently increased to facilitate a restructure to the timetabling and teaching provision of Post-16 Religious Education. There are six dedicated RE classrooms situated in the proximity of a recently expanded workroom for staff.

Timetable

Voluntary aided schools in England and Wales must ensure that religious education is provided as part of the school's basic curriculum. In Catholic schools this is done in accordance with the teachings, doctrines, discipline and norms of the Catholic Church.

Similarly, state funded schools in England and Wales are required by law to take part in an act of collective worship on each school day. In Catholic schools this is done in accordance with the rites, practices, disciplines and liturgical norms of the Catholic Church.

Parents of pupils in VA schools are permitted to request that their child is withdrawn from receiving all or part of religious education and/or collective worship given at the school and any such request shall stand until such time that the parent's request is withdrawn. Sixth form pupils may, on their own behalf, wholly or partly withdraw from attendance at collective worship at the school.

Appendix 1: What compliance with the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales requires in relation to Religious Education states that for Age 11 – 16, the 10 % RE curriculum time is best understood as a proportion of the lesson periods in each repeating cycle. At age 16 – 19, the 5 % will be best understood as a proportion of the total number of learning hours a Sixth Form student is expected to receive in the average sixth form offer.

Post-16

The requirement is that RE is at least 5% of the normal Post-16 student's timetable
This can be identified as 3 x A-Levels, Enrichment, General RE and PSHE/RSE

Post-16 Teaching Time(mins) Per Week		General RE Teaching Time(mins) Per Week		General RE % Per Week	
3xA-L	735				
Enrichment	80				
General RE	80				
PSHE	40				
Total	935	80		8.6%	

11 to 16

Total Teaching Time(mins) Per Week Years 7-11		RE Teaching Time(mins) Per Week			
		RE Teaching Time(mins) Per Week	No of Teaching Periods	RE % Per Week	RE % Per Week
Year 11	1520	160	4	10.5%	10.5%
Year 10	1520	160	4	10.5%	10.5%
Year 9	1520	160	4	10.5%	10.5%
Year 8	1520	160	4	10.5%	10.5%
Year 7	1520	160	4	10.5%	10.5%
Total	7600	800		10.5%	10.5%