

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

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

11 to 16

Total		RE		RE	
Teaching		Teaching		Time(mins)	
Time(mins)		Periods		%	
Per Week		Per Week		Per Week	
Years 7-11					
Year 11	1520	Year 11	160	4	10.5%
Year 10	1520	Year 10	160	4	10.5%
Year 9	1520	Year 9	160	4	10.5%
Year 8	1520	Year 8	160	4	10.5%
Year 7	1520	Year 7	160	4	10.5%
Total	7600	800		10.5%	10.5%