



The RE Department

Welcome

Religious Education is a stimulating and thought provoking curriculum which is designed to equip our pupils with respect and tolerance for a diverse world around us. Pupils are encouraged to question and critically analyse a range of moral as well as life issues; Religious Education is much more than just a study of religions. We encourage our pupils to be independent learners and informed individuals who are able to reason and appreciate a wide range of religious perspectives. Religious Education at St Joseph's is a core subject and as such all pupils take their GCSE examinations in Year 11.

Our aims are

- To provide enjoyment and creative stimulation in a safe environment.
- To help our pupils gain confidence in their own ability and achieve success.
- To give our pupils a safe forum to explore and express their individual ideas freely.
- To enable our pupils to be confident and independent learners.

Key Stage 3

Pupils have three lessons of RE per week at both Key stages. We focus on the skills of:

- Researching and selecting relevant and appropriate information.
- Explaining different perspectives and ideas.
- Evaluating different points of view whilst considering religious teachings, beliefs and attitudes.

We are currently teaching the following topics:

Year 7	Year 8
Who is God?	Covenants
Who is Jesus?	Forgiveness
Belonging to the Kingdom of God.	Judaism
How do we know what is fair?	Why is there suffering?
Sacraments and Vocations	Is all life of value?
World Religions	Islam

Key Stage 4

In the first part of this AQA GCSE Course we focus on Catholic Christianity. The pupils have the opportunity to study:

Beliefs and teachings, practices, forms of expression and sources of authority in each of the topics.

The RE Department teaches the following topics from year 9 to year 11:

- Creation
- Incarnation
- Trinity
- Redemption
- Kingdom of God
- Eschatology.

As part of the course we also study a world faith. The topics that we cover are:

- Jewish Beliefs.
- Jewish Practices.

We also study two ethical themes:

- Religion, Peace and Conflict.
- Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice.

Extra-curricular activity

We offer our pupils an opportunity to get involved in regular debating sessions of a philosophical nature. We also encourage our pupils to think about the world around them and offer them a chance to be active members of SVP [Saint Vincent de Paul] and Fair Trade. Our Chaplaincy team meets regularly and provides an opportunity for pupils to take an active role in decisions about spiritual and moral development of the school. We welcome many outside speakers to the school to enhance our pupils' understanding of the world in which we live. At both Key Stages we offer retreat experiences and trips to various places of worship.