



Our Lady's High School
SCHOOL POLICY and ARRANGEMENTS
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Reference No. D25

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AIMS / RATIONALE

Religious Education in a Catholic school is about formation in Faith. It communicates a vision of a personal faith relationship with God which illuminates our personal search for meaning and purpose in life. This vision is conveyed through many activities: the Gospel message, prayer, sacraments, liturgy, personal reflection, witness of personal lifestyle rooted in faith, loving relationships inspired by Jesus' commandment 'to love one another as I have loved you'.

Religious Education in Our Lady's is holistic and is related to the development of the whole person. Faith development cannot be forced and must take account of the pupils' stage of development and the fact that individuals are at different levels of Faith Development. There are 3 distinct yet overlapping aspects to religious Education in our school:

- Evangelisation – proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ
- Education in Faith – deepening the faith of those who are baptized
- Education in Religion – a growth in appreciation of one's own beliefs and practice and those of others.

MAIN ELEMENTS OF POLICY. ORGANISATION & IMPLEMENTATION

The Religious Education Programme in Our Lady's High has the following objectives:

- To assist pupils in the formation and development of a personal faith in God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- To present in a meaningful and challenging way the practices and beliefs of

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- the Roman Catholic tradition of the Christian Church
- To enable pupils to develop their personal beliefs, moral values and religious practice through a process of personal search, knowledge and evaluation – informed by the teachings of Jesus and interpreted through Church Tradition.
 - To encourage critical understanding of Catholic beliefs and practices on the part of the pupils.
 - To assist pupils in developing a personal relationship with God through participation in sacramental activity
 - To foster in pupils a prayer life
 - To help pupils understand and respect other Christian Traditions
 - To assist pupils to become familiar with aspects of other religions

The Religious Education programme is planned, delivered, resourced, monitored and evaluated through a specialist RE Department with an appointed Head of Department. The Specialist teacher is supported by a team of generalist RE teachers. The department has its own budget and is supported by the existence of a centrally situated RE Base and classroom.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Head of Religious Education
- SMT link person

RESOURCES & STAFF DEVELOPMENT

- Year group team meetings during INSET Days
- Departmental meetings
- Well resourced user-friendly RE Base
- Principal Teacher available for advice and support
- Education Authority and Diocesan Advisers and development courses

MONITORING & EVALUATION

- Annual audit of Departmental Development Plan
- Use of HGIOS 2
- Sharing of information at DMs and Year Group meetings on all aspects of the RE programme

SUPPORTING ADVICE & GUIDELINES

- RE Adviser Motherwell Diocese
- NL Adviser in RME
- Departmental Handbook
- National Documents
- CEC Documents / Diocesan Documents

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