



URSULINE HIGH SCHOOL

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Religious Education (RE) Department at Ursuline high school is a thriving department that has Christ at the centre. It aims to develop the image of God within every pupil and enable them to recognise it within others, celebrate differences, and find common grounds between people and cultures. The department is an academic community at the heart of a Catholic school, with six specialist teachers and outstanding exam results both at GCSE and A level. Our educational philosophy is that students should be able to articulate and be proud of their faith and personal beliefs while respecting the beliefs and values of others. Therefore, we encourage students to debate, discuss, and critically evaluate ideas, enabling them to communicate their views through speech and writing.

All teachers are practising Christians with robust knowledge and understanding of other faiths. The department works closely with the chaplaincy. It promotes the Catholic Social Teachings at various levels, for instance, the common good. The department has created a culture that enables all students and staff to excel, a culture of high expectations for all students' conduct, attainment, and progress, especially disadvantaged ones. High expectations are a central feature of all lessons; relationships between staff and students are always positive and frequently exemplary – every student is expected to succeed, which is achieved through a culture of both challenge and support. All department members are focused on attaining outstanding rates of progress and attainment for every student, including those who are disadvantaged, those with EAL or SEND and the more able.

We constantly reassess our delivery of the subject at all key stages to continue to provide the best teaching and learning to our students. The department is technologically capable, with all RE classrooms fitted with interactive whiteboards.

Overall, as a department, we seek to promote our students' spiritual, moral, and philosophical development within the Catholic framework. We do this because the potential for spiritual and moral growth is open to all students, Catholic and non-Catholic alike. All students have access to an education beyond the purely functional, allowing pupils to search for meaning and purpose in life, looking at what it means to be human and enabling them to reach the transcendent.

