

RE Department Background Information

The RE Department at Ursuline high school is a thriving department with five specialist teachers, who are practising Christians with understanding and knowledge of other faiths. We have outstanding exam results at both GCSE and A Level, and like all departments in the school, we keep Christ at the centre of all that we do.

The RE Department at Ursuline high school aims to develop the image of God within every pupil and to enable them to recognise it within others, celebrating differences and finding common grounds between people and cultures. The department is an academic community at the very heart of a Catholic school. Our educational philosophy is that girls should be able to articulate and be proud of their faith and personal beliefs while respecting the beliefs and values of others. We encourage students to debate, discuss and to be critically evaluative of ideas to enable the girls to communicate their views through speech and in writing. Much use is made of current affairs issues and new technologies, yet we remain grounded in the gospel values and bear witness to the message of Christ. Ultimately, we believe that Religious Education is of the utmost importance in the 21st Century because we are teaching the future leaders and policymakers of our country. We want girls to be the very best they can be; fulfilling their academic potential but also going out into the world with a strong sense of morality and justice, the ability to work cooperatively with other people and oriented towards values rather than material possessions. The achievement of this aim requires collaborative work between learners and educators. One of the ways to enhance this collaboration is through the deployment of student's voice, that is, students' input in educational issues that affect their learning.

We continually reassess our delivery of the subject at all key stages so that we may 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 the spiritual, moral and philosophical development of our students within the Catholic framework.