

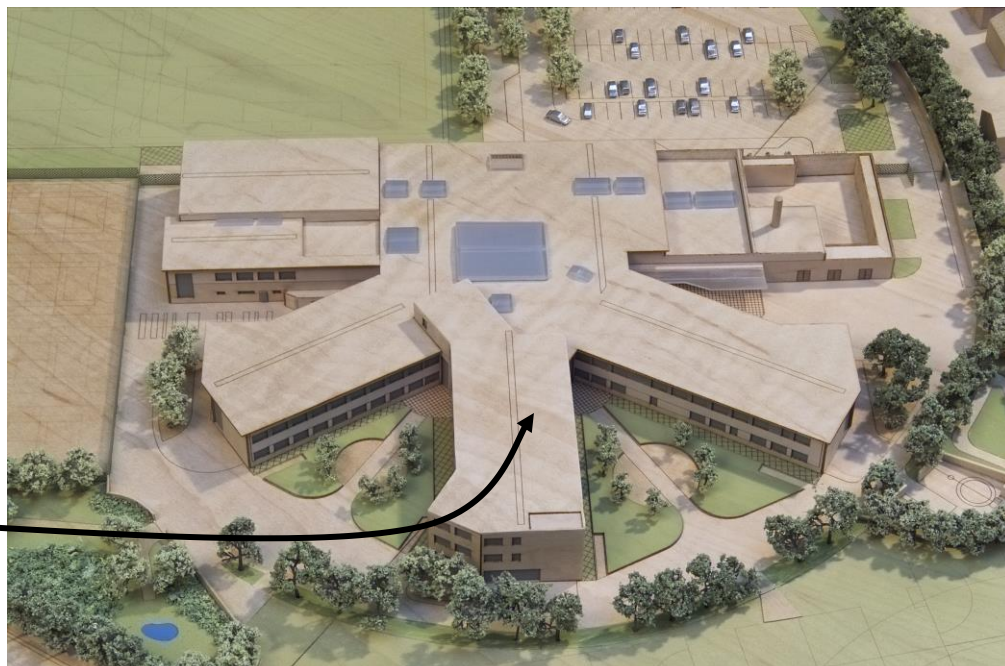


St Mary's Catholic School

## Religious Education Department

The department occupies a suite of 5 classrooms with the majority of teachers having their own classroom. Each classroom is equipped with state of the art Smartboards linked to desktop computers linked to a classroom speaker system. There is also a standard whiteboard in each room. The department has a set of portable netbooks available to staff on a booking basis.

There are currently 9 members of the RE Department, 6 of which are full time. There is a Head and Second in Department and 1 member of staff is also the school's SENCO.



RE  
Department

In Year 7 students are not set but are taught in mixed ability tutor groups. In Years 8 and 9 students are grouped by ability. For the GCSE programmes in Key Stage 4, the students are also grouped by ability. Sets are reviewed every term and updated using students' assessment performance. Class size in KS3 is typically 30 pupils in sets 1 and 2, 25 in sets 3 and 4 and 15 in set 5. GCSE classes follow the same pattern. We currently have two A' level groups in Year 12 with a total of 26 students and two A Level groups in Year 13 of 36 students.

### **KS3**

Key Stage 3 provision is currently 4 x 1 hour lessons per 2-week cycle. There are comprehensive schemes of work and resources for all topics covered. Each SOW provides for structured learning and regular assessment. Students are encouraged to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding of RE using varied approaches to learning.

In Year 7 students study 6 units all based around particular themes, namely, The Church, Storytelling, Belief, What it means to be human, Forms of Expression. In Year 8 students study 6 topics all based around particular themes, namely, The History of the Church, Judaism, Justice, Is death the end?, Why do people suffer? and Confirmation. In Year 9 students study 6 units all based around particular themes, namely, Prayer and Pilgrimage, Religion and Science, Love, War and Peace, Christianity and Judaism, Catholic Christianity.

Throughout the year students complete assessed pieces of work which take place both in class and at home. Students are given a raw mark and percentage along with feedback on how to improve. The marks and percentages are measured against Pathway outcomes in the form of skills and knowledge.

### **KS4**

Key Stage 4 provision for Year 10 and 11 is currently 5 x 1 hour lessons per 2-week cycle. We follow the Edexcel board Syllabus A. In Year 10 students study Catholic Christianity and Philosophy. In Year 11 students study Ethics and Judaism. The units studied in Catholic Christianity are Beliefs and Teachings, Practices, Sources of Wisdom and Authority and Forms of Expression. The units studied in Philosophy are the Arguments for the Existence of God. In Ethics, students study Religious Teachings on Relationships and Families in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The units studied in Judaism are also about Beliefs, Teachings and Practices.

Students sit 3 exams: Catholic Christianity is a 1 hour 45 minutes written paper worth 50%. Philosophy and Ethics is a 50 minute written paper worth 25%. The Judaism paper is also a 50 minute written paper worth 25%. There is no controlled assessment in this subject. Assessment is on-going with students sitting a mock exam in Y10 and 11 with grades reported home.

### **KS5**

Key Stage 5 provision is currently 10 x 1 hour lessons per 2-week cycle per subject. The department offers an A' Level studying Philosophy, Religious Ethics and Christianity. We follow the Edexcel syllabus covering the Philosophy and Christianity papers in Year 12 and the Religion and Ethics paper in Year 13. Students sit 3 exams which are 2 hours long.

Assessment is on-going with students sitting a mock exam in Y12 and 13 with grades reported home.