

Learning in Religious Education

Courses in Religious education in Roman Catholic schools takes place within the context of the Catholic faith community. Religious education in Catholic schools is designed to nurture faith and assist pupils to be able to make an informed response to God in faith. Children and young people in Catholic schools will be at different places in the spectrum of faith development. While most pupils will be of the Catholic tradition, some will be of other denominations and faiths, or have different stances for living. Religious education should support all pupils, irrespective of religious affiliation, in their personal search for truth and meaning in life, and so it is central to their educational development. For those who demonstrate active faith participation, however, it also contributes to the development of their personal response to God in faith.

The skills that pupils acquire through religious education enable them to:

- develop their knowledge and understanding of significant aspects of Catholic Christian faith and an understanding of other Christian traditions and world religions
- investigate and understand the responses which faith offers to questions about truth and the meaning of life
- highlight and foster the values, attitudes and practices which are compatible with a positive response to the invitation to faith religious education in denominational schools
- develop the skills of reflection, discernment, critical thinking, and deciding how to act in accordance with an informed conscience when making moral decisions
- develop their beliefs, attitudes, moral values and practices through personal search, discovery and critical evaluation, and make a positive difference to the world by putting their beliefs and values into action.

Pupils will develop skills which are transferable to other areas of study and which they will use in everyday life. The skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work will not be formally assessed within the Course assessment. However, Course planners will identify opportunities to enhance skills in the following throughout the course:

- Reading
- Writing
- Personal learning
- Citizenship
- Applying, analysing & evaluating

The learner journey through Religious Education will provide challenge, enjoyment and meaning. As pupils progress through their Broad General Education and into the senior phase, they will follow a curricular pathway guided by advice contained in *This is our Faith (Senior phase)*. The curricular content and themes represent a continued and progressive deepening of learning experienced during the Broad General Education.

Home learning in Religious Education

All pupils are encouraged to reflect on and actively explore the faith experience at St Luke's in the wider reality of their life. At home and in their local community, pupils are encouraged to develop and grow in their faith response. Tasks which may be deployed in order to facilitate home learning in Religious Education include:

- Home learning assignments
- Research projects
- Opportunities to assist in the parish community
- Opportunities to exercise leadership roles within the school and wider community, e.g., Pope Benedict XVI Caritas award programme.

Ways in which parents/carers can support pupils include:

- Taking time to discuss with pupils the issues of faith and moral s which arise in lessons delivered in Religious Education
- Discuss important issues concerning religious belief and morality in a an open, friendly and prudent manner
- Encouraging pupils to develop in their faith life and to encourage their regular participation in the sacramental life of the Church
- Nurture in pupils openness to prayer and spirituality
- Checking that home learning assignments are completed.

Supporting pupils in Religious Education

Throughout the courses delivered in Religious Education, pupils will receive support and guidance from individual teachers.

Support strategies will include:

- discussion of overall individual strengths, areas of improvement, next steps and progress
- negotiation of individual targets and plans of actions to achieve success
- feedback on specific pieces of work
- opportunities for supported study
- learning resources which may be available from the Religious Education faculty page of the school website

Careers in Religious Education

The skills acquired by pupils in Religious Education can be found in many aspects of working life including in the following fields:

Academic Research	Government	Retail
Advice worker	Healthcare	Social Work
Archaeologist	Journalist	Teaching
Business & research	Lecturer	Travel
Counsellor	Ministry	Voluntary sector
Customer services	Priesthood	Writer
Finance	Religious life	Youth & community worker