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**The Religious Education Department**

The RE Department at St. Michael’s is a very successful department and, at present, consists of 4 full-time and 3 part-time members of staff. Members of the Leadership Team also teach Core RE at Sixth Form level. The department also benefits from a part-time Chaplain.

In the Diocesan Inspection (November 2018) the School was judged as Outstanding for both Classroom Religious Education and for the Catholic Life of the School.

At KS3, we are currently introducing the new curriculum directory (RED) for year 7 students, with a view to introducing year 8 in 2024 and year 9 in 2025. At the moment, year 8 and 9 students follow schemes of work produced by the RE department to fit the requirements of the curriculum directory and to provide the right level of challenge and reflection for our students. At the moment year 9 is a foundation year for GCSE, covering Islam and Ethics and then moving on to the GCSE syllabus starting with St. Mark's Gospel from Easter.

At the end of KS4 all pupils take GCSE Religious Studies:

Exam Board: AQA Religious Studies B:

Catholic Christianity (50%)

St Mark’s Gospel (25%)

Judaism (25%)

At KS5 all students follow one Core RE lesson each week (on a carousel process offered by seven members of staff in each of Years 12 and 13). Religious Studies, Edexcel Board, is offered at A Level with papers taken in Philosophy, Ethics and New Testament studies. The uptake is good and the results excellent.

All members of the RE department share in the running of the liturgical life of the school, including preparing classes to lead Friday Mass in the Chapel, assisting the Head of RE and Chaplain with whole school liturgies and Masses, upholding the Catholic life and ethos of the school.

The full and part-time teachers of RE have a key role within the Department contributing to all aspects of this central department which, to be successful, depends on good teamwork. They have a particular responsibility for the development of RE in KS3, and work with the Chaplain in promoting charity events and planning for trips such as the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes and charity work in Luanda, Kenya.

The Chaplain is responsible for co-ordinating and facilitating the liturgical life of the School, together with the Head of RE. The Music, Drama and Dance departments contribute through the Liturgy Committee and pupils from all years are fully involved in meaningful and lively liturgies for the whole School at the end of each term, for the feast of St. Michael and Holy Days of Obligation. There is a voluntary Mass each Friday in the school chapel prepared by each form in the School (KS3/KS4). Staff and Sixth Form students are Eucharistic Ministers.

A varied programme of Retreats is prepared for every year group.

The Department has two fully equipped specialist teaching rooms and there is a Chapel with a small Oratory.

The RE Department’s role is a vital one in a Catholic School. The person appointed will bring her/his own particular talents and interests but the successful candidate will be an excellent teacher who has a positive attitude to life and to the school’s ethos as well as a lively sense of humour.

Dec 2023