

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

1. All pupils are expected to follow the time-tabled course for Religious Education throughout the School.
2. This will normally be three Periods in Years 8 and 9, two periods year 10 and one period in Years 11 to 14.
3. Parents have the right to withdraw their children on grounds of conscientious objection by informing the Headmaster in writing on the first day, or earlier, of each School year in which the child continues in the School.
4. Children of all faiths and none traditionally have studied Religious Education in the School. There is no attempt to proselytise through the RE programme but rather to inform and educate, it has very often been thought to be of advantage to children coming from different cultural or religious backgrounds to understand the predominant culture of the country in which their child is being educated. Those teaching RE are advised to be sensitive to any differences in background and that any embarrassment would be carefully avoided for all such children.
5. The Key Stage 3 RE curriculum has been agreed by all of the main churches (Protestant and Roman Catholic) and is delivered in every school throughout Northern Ireland. At examination Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 there is also a common curriculum.
6. RE can be chosen as an examination subject and studied at GCSE level (either as a full or short course) and at AS and A2 level, and it continues to be a popular choice.
7. In addition Year 11-14 non-examination RE classes address various moral issues of topical and career importance with spiritual or religious connotations such as gambling, sexuality, abortion, marriage, drugs, alcohol, euthanasia, the death penalty, etc. Pupils are encouraged to become autonomous thinkers and to respect the views of others.