



***Religious Education***  
***INTENT STATEMENT***

## ***Gunnersbury's Catholic School Mission Statement***

***"Gunnersbury Catholic School strives to educate all its pupils within an environment where the Catholic traditions of learning, truth, justice, respect and community are promoted."***

### ***'Ad Altiora' - 'To Higher Things.'***

- Every Catholic school has a mission statement that encapsulates its distinctive job or core purpose.
- The mission statement **puts faith at the heart of all we do at school** and incorporates our school motto.
- It speaks of inclusivity and respect, that we understand as important Gospel values.
- It reminds us that Christ is at that centre of all that we do and by extension, as his creations we are all obligated to treat every member of our community with respect and love.
- It speaks of our aspirations for all in our community and our will to do all we can to make these a reality

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

The RE department at Gunnersbury Catholic School has a pivotal role in the school, providing not only preparation for examinations, but also spiritual support for staff and students.

Our students are on a journey of faith and it is the privilege of the RE Department to accompany them on this journey.

## **INTENT**

The Religious Education department recognises that each pupil in our care is a child who has been created in God's image and likeness and as such is unique and valued. The curriculum we offer has therefore been designed to ensure each child reaches their full God given potential; *"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full"* (John 10:10). We provide all students with a rigorous, challenging curriculum that brings life to the Curriculum Directory, British Values and Gospel Values and enables our pupils to develop academically, morally and spiritually. Through this holistic approach, our aim is to ensure pupils have a deep understanding of their faith and the faiths of others, are religiously literate, can think ethically and theologically and participate actively in their own spiritual development. Alongside their faith development, our aim is to challenge our pupils to reach their full potential academically, recognising the importance of qualifications as a springboard for the next steps in their lives.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

Schemes of work have been designed to ensure that pupils are able to grapple with Religious beliefs, concepts and issues in a way that naturally flows from one Key Stage to another and becomes increasingly more difficult, allowing pupils to develop key skills such as understanding, interpreting and making reasoned judgements as they progress.

At Key Stage 3 we aim to ensure that pupils are provided with a broad understanding of both

Catholic Christian beliefs and the beliefs of other major world faiths. In year 7 we make sure that pupils are secure in their comprehension of core Catholic beliefs and traditions, such as the Sacraments, before moving on to study the beliefs and traditions of other religions such as Hinduism. In year 8, pupils build on their understanding of Catholic beliefs and traditions through exploring the Church's historical foundations and development. Pupils are also given the opportunity to learn about the beliefs and teachings of Islam. In year 9, pupils begin to evaluate philosophical and ethical ideas and are introduced to the beliefs, teachings and practices of Judaism.

At Key Stage 4 we aim to build on the rich curriculum provided at Key Stage 3 and provide students with more opportunities to recognise diversity within the world and analyse and evaluate different points of view. The first area of study is Catholic Christianity. This gives students further opportunity to study the nature of Roman Catholic Christianity; its beliefs and teachings, practices, sources of wisdom and authority and forms of expression and ways of life. The second area of study is Judaism. This aspect of the course gives students the chance to explore, in a detailed way, Jewish beliefs and teachings as well as the effects of these beliefs and teachings on everyday Jewish life and practices. The third and final area allows students to engage with issues posed by philosophy and ethics. Students engage with arguments for the existence of God and examine religious teachings on relationships and families in the 21st century.

At Key Stage 5, students continue to expand their skills of constructing arguments and evaluation and increase their use of theological, philosophical and ethical points of view to form their own opinions. Students have the opportunity to continue to develop their knowledge acquired at GCSE through looking at Philosophy, Ethics and the Development of Christian thought.

All Sixth Form students take a course in CORE Religious Education. This is allocated dedicated curriculum time and is delivered by our Religious Education teachers. A range of issues are studied and debated, with the aim of ensuring our pupils have a wide-ranging understanding of the world around them and can use their Catholic background to form the basis of their future moral choices.

## **IMPACT**

The opportunities provided for pupils to develop academically, morally and spiritually leads to successful, life-long learners who are confident and responsible citizens. Transferable skills developed throughout the curriculum include critical thinking, analytical thinking, communication and problem solving. These provide learners with a secure foundation upon which to approach a varied array of degree choices such as Law, Psychology, and PPE.

The impact of the work of our Religious Educators can also be clearly seen through our fantastic results. Our latest Diocesan inspection in 2020 also rated us outstanding in all areas.