

Religious Education

Overview.

The identification of gifted pupils in R.E should be based on distinct R.E skills, competencies and insights. It should also be noted that giftedness in R.E is not to be aligned with being religiously gifted or having a deep, unshakable faith. Within the R.E department we also recognise that individual pupils will enter the classroom with a different experience of faith. It is therefore important that we are responsive to this challenge and provide the opportunity for all pupils to be identified regardless of their overall commitment / knowledge of the Catholic faith presented to them at St. John Fisher.

Identifying gifted pupils

As a department we agreed that gifted pupils would be identified through the following ;

- Being able to offer insights beyond the obvious and the ordinary.
- Make sense of and draw meaning from, religious symbols, metaphors, texts and symbols.
- Be aware of the numinous aspect and mystery of life.
- Understand , apply and transfer ideas across topics in R.E.

In more general terms, they may also

- Have highly developed skills of comprehension, analysis and research.
- Show quickness of understanding and depth of thought.

Setting suitable learning challenges.

As a department we feel it is necessary where possible to set learning challenges which give pupils access to high levels of attainment.

Suggested activities might be;

·Independent research tasks which offer pupils the chance to explore different beliefs / systems of value.

e.g. Interview with an atheist / agnostic / theist finding out reasons why.

·Year 9 pupils are offered the chance to explore Islam in detail and search for beliefs / values / attributes of Allah independently of the classroom environment.

·A reading list is made available for specific units of work and to help talented pupils to explore ideas / concepts on their own.

·Visits to religious places of worship and a chance to speak / prepare questions for leaders of particular faiths. Year 8 this will be a visit to a Sikh Gurdwara and a talk / Q+A session with a Sikh leader.

Responding to pupils diverse needs

As a department we feel it is necessary to respond to the diverse needs presented by individual pupils. We need to ensure that all pupils are able to demonstrate what they know, understand and can do in ways that do always not involve writing. It is felt that the following will help the identification process and allow pupils to develop and increase their attainment.

- Open discussion / group discussion.
- Out - of - school activities.
- Class presentation by individual pupils on specific aspects of R.E and faith communities.



Provision for Gifted Pupils

Whilst the RE department analyses all pupils by the outcome of their work we also provide additional tasks aimed to stretch our gifted and talented pupils. These tasks have been implemented in each of their areas of study throughout the year. At least one task per unit of work. As a department we are evaluating all our schemes of work and an evaluation of the gifted provision will follow

Year 7

Community Module – Autumn Term

Area of study: The chapel.

As part of this area of work all pupils will investigate the various features of the chapel. They will encounter subject specific vocabulary such as transubstantiation and consecration. Gifted and talented pupils should be able to explain using subject specific terms the meaning of these words and other features of the chapel.

Area of study: The Word of God

As part of this unit of work pupils would be expected to investigate the content of the Bible and its usage. Provision is made for gifted and talented pupils to answer the question ' How would Christians use the Bible as a guide to living a good life.'

Year 8

Area of study: Creation

As part of this unit of work pupils study the story of creation and assess the problems associated with it as a factual account. As well as religious they will also look at scientific explanations for the origin of the universe and come to a justified conclusion as to which appear to be the most reliable. There is scope for great philosophical debate.

Area of study: The Church in Britain.

As part of this unit of work pupils investigate the Church in Britain from the first arrival of the Gospel to the Reformation and beyond. The gifted and talented provision will come in the form of two extended questions:

The Church creates greater division amongst society do you agree?

The Church in Britain is in decline. Do you agree?

Year 9

Area of study: Images of God

As part of this unit of work pupils identify common images of God and describe the difficulties associated with some of these images. Gifted and talented pupils will engage in philosophical debate about freedom and determinism.

Area of study: Suffering and Evil

As part of this unit of work pupils will identify different types of suffering and understand stories that attempt to explain the existence of suffering. Through thinking skills pupils will be asked to identify the problems associated with the existence of God and evil.

Year 10 and 11

Area of study: Life Issues

As part of this unit of work pupils will debate when life begins, when life ends and gifted and talented pupils will be encouraged to investigate how Christians have different interpretations and engage in the application of various ethical theories.

Area of study: War

As part of this unit of work pupils will use a variety of stimuli to help them to appreciate different perspectives towards war. Pupils will assess past and present situations and apply the Just War criteria to these scenarios.