The Trinity Catholic School, Nottingham

# The RE Department

Our RE department consists of six full time and two part-time teachers who are all specialists in RE. Between us we have a wealth of experience in the effective delivery of RE to all key stages. We have five specialist rooms in the main school and a further room in the sixth form block. Each of the rooms is fitted with a data projector and contains its own set of RE resources. We have a small chapel on one site and are developing a new one on our other site, one of which is used for regular form masses.

At Key Stage 3 we teach 10% curriculum time per week. We deliver a curriculum designed by us to fully meet the requirements of the Curriculum Directory and keep pupils engaged with religious teachings and practices, as well as raising questions of morality and personal development. Topics range from sacramental belief and practice to multi-faith teaching, ethics, philosophy of religion and social justice.

At Key Stage 4, all pupils study and are entered for Eduqas GCSE Religious Studies Full Course, Route B. Our chosen course combines Roman Catholic belief and practice with Judaism, as prescribed by the CESEW. Pupils have five hours over a two week timetable and, as a general rule, we try to make sure that pupils have the same teacher in year 10 as in year 11, for continuity.

At Key Stage 5 we currently study the OCR Religious Studies course. Pupils have five hours per week, one teacher for three hours and another for the remaining two. Religious Studies has been a consistently popular option for our students and we have high levels of uptake, demonstrating high levels of enjoyment and interest in the subject. This course combines Philosophy of Religion with Religious Ethics and Developments in Christian Thought and is assessed through examinations only. We also offer Core RE to pupils who do not study RE at Key Stage 5 for one hour a week in Year 12.

As a department we are fully committed to the Catholic life and worship of the school. We organise weekend residential trips to the Briars, have a Bible club run by the sixth formers in one of our feeder primaries, plan and run in-school retreat days and, of course, take the leading role in school Masses and liturgies which punctuate the school year. Our department, and the school as a whole, is committed to charitable works and our main charity is CAFOD, although we raise funds for a range of local, national and international charities. Last year the school donated over £6000. We were delighted when, in November 2014, the Diocese awarded us an ‘Outstanding’ grade for Catholic Life, Collective Worship and Religious Education as can be evidenced in the Diocesan Canonical Inspection which can be found on the Nottingham Diocesan Centre website. We are proud to say that the department is academically successful and has been consistently so for a good number of years and the latest examination results can be found on the school website.

Our future medium to long term aims are to create, plan and further embed new schemes of work in Key Stage 4 and 5, to which all members of the department will contribute. We continue to try to build our resources on the TLG (Trinity Learning Gateway) and Key Stage 3 provision is re-evaluated and developed, where necessary. We would also like to further develop resources for Core RE and to develop the chaplaincy provision throughout the school.

Overall, RE is a successful, busy, academic department with teachers who are prepared to go beyond normal expectations to see that pupils have a positive experience of religion and what it means to be part of a Catholic community. We have every reason to hope and expect that it will continue to be so in the future.