

Thomas More Catholic School



MISSION STATEMENT

TO CARE for, respect and value all people and our environment.

TO LEARN that justice and love are the foundations of our Faith.

To make these the guiding principles of our community in its commitment to academic excellence and personal integrity.

TO ACHIEVE beyond our highest expectations, creating challenging opportunities, which take us all confidently through the 21st Century.

JOB DESCRIPTION

HEAD OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

REPORTING TO: Executive Headteacher & Head of School

RESPONSIBLE FOR: Teaching staff within Department

LIAISING WITH: School Chaplain, SENDCo, Curriculum Leaders, Literacy Co-ordinator, External Agencies, Parents, Governors and Diocese

The Post

The post holder will be responsible for the effective teaching of the Religious Studies throughout the school and the programme for developing the spiritual life of all students.

The post holder will possess the ability and vision to promote the liturgy and prayer life of the school including the organisation of retreats and away-days.

The post holder will also take into account the presence of significant numbers of students of other Christian denominations. This will be reflected in the nature of the delivery of the teaching and by a willingness to acknowledge our common belief in Jesus, whilst not compromising the Church's teachings. The post holder will also celebrate and acknowledge the minority of students of other Faiths represented in the school, recognising that all Faiths acknowledge God and have respect for creation.

Tasks

In addition to the duties outlined for all curriculum leaders in the school, see generic job description for curriculum leaders, the post holder for RE will undertake the following :

Curriculum :

- To review and develop a syllabus of religious education which ensures coverage, at all levels across the school, of the Religious Education Curriculum Directory (RECD) of the Bishops' Conference. The syllabus will offer continuity and progression from Years 7 - 13, it will take into account an understanding of other faiths and Christian practices.
- To review the syllabus regularly; organise and manage the Religious Education curriculum, including schemes of work, departmental action plan, departmental handbook, religious artefacts and resources, including reading and other stimulus materials.
- Through the religious education curriculum, to contribute to the school's cross curricular personal and social education programme at both Key Stages 3 - 5.

- Promote and sustain an effective student monitoring and evaluation system, and ensure that the findings from the 'Denominational Inspection (Section 48)' are followed up rigorously.
- Liaise with other schools, agencies, special advisers and organisations within the Diocese of Southwark such as the Education Commission, the Centre for Catholic Formation (Tooting Bec), Southwark Catholic Youth Services and charitable organisations e.g. CAFOD, CARJ, CAP, to enhance the curriculum offer.

Communication:

- To liaise regularly with home and school to promote the religious education of all students.
- To liaise effectively with the organisations and similar agencies listed under curriculum.
- To liaise, where appropriate, with feeder primary schools to effect proper continuity of religious education for students at Year 7.
- To promote regular and sustained liaison with the diocese and local parishes and priests, religious and others who visit the school regularly.
- To communicate to the line manager the needs, expectations and any concerns in relation to maintaining a high profile for the faith among the student body.
- To actively promote an active faith in the school with the aim of involving as many students as possible, with support from staff.

Staff Development:

- To motivate and support other religious education teachers, specialist and non-specialist.
- To promote and ensure the integration of religious education across the curriculum.

Whole School:

- To liaise with and assist School Leaders and all staff in promoting the specific aims and Catholic life of the school.

THOMAS MORE SCHOOL
PERSON SPECIFICATION
HEAD OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Qualifications

- Qualified teacher status
- Appropriate specialist qualifications in the teaching of religious education at secondary level.
- Practising member of the Roman Catholic Church.

Experience

- At least 4 years successful teaching of RE at secondary level.
- Evidence of the ability to lead a team or working group.
- Evidence of having worked across the curriculum with other colleagues.
- Experience of effectively addressing issues of peace and justice outside the curriculum in a creative and imaginative way.
- Evidence of working creatively with students to enable them to reflect meaningfully on their faith and its place in their lives.

Skills

- Ability to organise resources and manage a budget.
- Ability to convey enthusiasm to students, staff and parents.
- Ability to manage classroom behaviour positively.
- Ability to manage a department and organise the work of others.
- Ability to lead a team and to communicate with colleagues at all levels.

Aptitude

- A lively, enthusiastic approach to the teaching of religious education.
- Empathy with young people and their life experiences.
- A commitment to the spiritual development of each child.
- A firm commitment to equality of opportunity.