



RE Policy (Senior)

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Mission Statement

'To educate young people to meet the challenges of life courageously, to use their talents to the full and to live the values of Christ's Gospel'

1.0 School Context

At Thornton we aim:

- To enable pupils to grow in the knowledge and love of God and to encourage them to serve Him in others and to spread the knowledge of the Gospel.
- To foster the pupils' academic, physical and spiritual growth.
- To provide an environment where pupils will be happy and where they will strive for excellence.
- To enable our pupils to discover their true potential and to work towards their full development.
- To encourage pupils to respect and value others and respond to their needs.
- To encourage pupils to see themselves and what they have to offer in the context of the wider community.
- To ensure that our young people are well prepared for life in a rapidly changing world.

2.0 Regulatory Context

Education Act 2005

Under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005 a Bishop has the right to inspect any Catholic school or college within his Diocese to evaluate the quality of Religious Education and the Catholic nature of the school.

Code of Canon Law

Formation and education in a catholic school must be based on the principles of catholic doctrine and the teachers must be outstanding in true doctrine and uprightness of life. (Canon 803)

No school, even if it is in fact catholic may bear the title 'catholic school' except by the consent of the competent ecclesiastical authority. The diocesan Bishop has the right to watch over and inspect the catholic schools situated in his territory, even those established or directed by members of religious institutes. He also has the right to issue directives concerning the general regulation of catholic schools; these directives apply also to schools conducted by members of a religious institute, although they retain their autonomy in the internal management of their schools. Those who are in charge of catholic schools are to ensure, under the supervision of the local Ordinary, that the formation given in them is, in its academic standards, at least as outstanding as that in other schools in the area. (Canon 806)

Religious Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools and Colleges in England and Wales (2023)

The contents of the RE Curriculum must reflect the contents of the *Religious Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools and Colleges in England and Wales* compiled by the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales. We are currently adapting our schemes of work at Key Stage Three to ensure they are compliant with the new REDC.

3.0 Philosophy of Education

At Thornton we aim to provide an environment in which pupils can engage with the Beliefs, Teachings and Practices of Roman Catholic Christianity in a spirit of openness and acceptance of difference. In the Spirit of the Congregation of Jesus and Mary, all are welcome at Thornton, thus pupils of all faiths and none must feel that their points of view and beliefs are not only valued but welcome too. Delivery of Religious Education must allow pupils to experience the beauty of the Catholic faith and to both engage and enjoy learning about it. We also recognise the importance of the study of the major religions of the world to allow pupils to recognise the common purposes and ethical values that all share. Finally we must teach Religious Education in a way that connects belief with positive action in the world.

4.0 RE Curriculum

The current RE Curriculum reflects the contents of the *Religious Education Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools and Colleges in England and Wales* appropriate to the key stage and this has been mapped across all schemes of work.

KS3

It is a requirement of the Bishop of Northampton that schools within the Northampton Diocese, base their KS3 curriculum upon the REDC. Thus the RE Department is making provision to implement this new curriculum from September 2023 and are cross referencing this with The Source and Summit programme in order to be compliant by September 2025.

RE is one of the four CORE subjects at Thornton College and is studied by all pupils.

KS4

It is a requirement that the GCSE curriculum taught at KS4 is from a course approved by the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales. The primary religion taught must be Catholic Christianity and the secondary religion taught must be Judaism. This is a requirement of the Bishop of Northampton and is subject to the code of Canon Law outlined above. At the College we currently teach the AQA Specification B GCSE RS Course in Catholic Christianity with Judaism. The resources that we use to deliver the course carry the Imprimatur and Nihil Obstat and thus are considered free from doctrinal error.

RE is one of the four CORE subjects at Thornton College and it is the norm that all pupils will sit a GCSE exam in the subject.

KS5

A course in General RE is provided for all 6th form pupils. There is no specific course that schools within the Northampton Diocese are directed to use. Therefore, a course on the place of religion and religious values within contemporary society is delivered to both Year 12 and 13.

A course in A-level Religious Studies is offered but is not compulsory. There is no specific course that schools within the Northampton Diocese are directed to use. We currently teach A level Philosophy Ethics and Developments in Christian Thought (Theology) following the OCR Course for Religious Studies.

5.0 Delivery

As a Catholic school in the Diocese of Northampton it is identified as best practice that 10% of curriculum time is dedicated to Religious Education across Key stages 3, 4 and 5. It is very likely that if this requirement is not met it will be grounds for a limiting judgement under the rigours of a Diocesan Section 48 Inspection.

Pupils at Thornton receive 4, 40-minute RE Lessons per week in Key stage 3 and 4 and . 6th form pupils receive 2 40-minute lesson per week (Core RE), and an additional 40-minute Horizons lesson. Those studying A Level have 8 40-minute lessons.

Detailed Operational Information about delivery of RE at Thornton College is outlined in the Departmental Handbook for Religious Education.