

Core Religious Education (Post 16)

Outline of Core RE: Core Religious Education is a vital part of Sixth Form life in a Catholic school, offering students the opportunity to explore life's big questions, engage with Catholic teaching and reflect on their own values in dialogue with others. Through topics that connect faith with real-world issues such as justice, suffering, digital culture and ethical choices, students develop skills in critical thinking, ethical reasoning and respectful discussion. Core RE supports them in becoming thoughtful, compassionate young adults, prepared to contribute to the common good in their future lives.

Assessment: Students will have one assessment at the end of the unit, which is either peer assessed, or Teacher marked. The assessments help them to reflect on the themes of the topic studied.

Previously, Year 12 and Year 13 Core RE followed a rolling Year A/Year B cycle. As we transition to a new curriculum, some of the Year 13 topics in the 2025/26 academic year will overlap with those studied by Year 12. However, these topics will still be new for the Year 13 students.

Year 12:

Topic	What do we cover?
The Lourdes Pilgrimage	Students begin the year by exploring the Catholic tradition of pilgrimage, with a particular focus on Lourdes. They examine the history of the site, stories of healing and the reasons why millions of pilgrims continue to travel there each year. This unit helps students understand how physical journeys can reflect spiritual growth and deepen faith. Students are also given the opportunity to sign up for the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes.
Jesus: Who do you say I am?	In this unit, students engage with one of the central questions of Christianity: who is Jesus? They explore different images and titles of Jesus found in scripture, tradition and modern culture, while reflecting on what these mean for personal faith and contemporary society.
From Suffering to hope	Here students grapple with the challenge of suffering and evil in the world. They explore Christian perspectives on why suffering exists and how faith can offer hope and resilience in the face of difficulty. The unit also invites students to reflect on their own experiences of hardship and hope.

The Joy of Faith	This unit highlights the positive and life-giving aspects of belief. Students consider how faith communities celebrate joy, foster belonging and contribute to human flourishing. They are encouraged to see how joy can be found not only in religious practice but also in service, relationships and everyday life.
Discernment in a digital world	As young people navigate an online culture filled with opportunities and challenges, this unit encourages critical thinking and moral reflection. Students explore how Catholic teaching can inform responsible, balanced and ethical choices in the digital age, equipping them for life in a rapidly changing world. They can reflect on their vocation and place in the world.
Living the Mission	This topic explores how faith is lived out in daily life through service, justice, and witness. Rooted in Catholic Social Teaching, students reflect on how values such as dignity, solidarity, and stewardship guide choices in work, relationships and society. The unit highlights that living the mission is a call for everyone, not just the Church, to bring hope and compassion into the world.
Encounter: Buddhism	In the final unit, students step beyond Christianity to explore the teachings and practices of Buddhism. They study key beliefs such as the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path, while comparing Buddhist perspectives with Catholic understandings of meaning, suffering, and happiness. This unit fosters respect for diversity and deeper interfaith awareness.

Year 13: For academic Year 25/26

Topic	What will we cover?
Anchored in Hope	This unit invites students to reflect on the place of hope in the Christian life, especially during times of uncertainty and change. They explore how Catholic faith offers strength when facing the unknown, drawing inspiration from voices of courage in the Church and wider society. The unit considers how hope has sustained Catholics through moments of challenge and transformation. Students connect this to the Church's celebration of the Year of Hope during the Jubilee year. Students are encouraged to see hope not as wishful thinking, but as a deep trust in God's promises that can anchor their lives today.
Faith and Finance	In this unit, students learn how money and faith connect in everyday life. They explore the difference between needs and wants, the importance of budgeting, and the dignity of work. Guided by Catholic Social Teaching and key documents such as <i>Rerum Novarum</i> and <i>Laborem Exercens</i> , students reflect on fair wages, justice in the workplace, and global issues like debt and ethical consumerism. The unit encourages responsible choices that uphold human dignity and the common good.
Jesus: Who do you say I am?	In this unit, students engage with one of the central questions of Christianity: who is Jesus? They explore different images and titles of Jesus found in scripture, tradition, and modern culture, while reflecting on what these mean for personal faith and contemporary society.
Living the Mission	This topic explores how faith is lived out in daily life through service, justice, and witness. Rooted in Catholic Social Teaching, students reflect on how values such as dignity, solidarity, and stewardship guide choices in work, relationships, and society. The unit highlights that living the mission is a call for everyone, not just the Church, to bring hope and compassion into the world.