

ST. KEVIN'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION POLICY



	DATE.
RATIFIED BY THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT:	3 RD DAY OF OCTOBER 2018 .
REVIEW DATE:	3 RD . DAY OF OCTOBER 2020

Religious Education Policy



St. Kevin's Community College,
Fonthill Road,
Clondalkin,
Dublin 22.

February 2018

Religious Education at St. Kevin's Community College aims to provide students with an overall holistic education with regards to religions, spirituality and wellbeing.

RE within the Whole School Community

As a designated Community College, we aim to deliver a rounded education to all students regardless of their background or religious traditions. Students are invited to share their cultures and traditions. The students are invited to participate in times of prayer and reflection throughout the year. The Chaplain coordinates and participates in organising times of retreat, sanctuary and giving. The Chaplain maintains spaces of prayer and reflection that reflects the liturgical and interfaith calendar.

RE policy

The RE Department and Chaplain consult regularly with one another and the Diocesan Advisor. The RE department are in the process of putting together a policy for Religious Education in St. Kevin's for ratification in the academic year 2018/2019.

The Religious Education Syllabus

The teachers at St. Kevin's Community College teach RE as outlined in the Department of Education Syllabus. The aims for RE in our school are as follows.

- ❖ Religious Education aims to develop in our students an understanding and appreciation of our own religious traditions and that of others.
- ❖ Promote an environment where our students are enabled to develop a maturity of faith.
- ❖ Facilitate time to reflect on their own experiences and to recognise the unique role of Christianity (or their own faith tradition) in that experience.

- ❖ To foster in our students a respect for Christian values and a respect for the values of all.
- ❖ To ensure the status of R.E. in the school.

Staff:

Name
Darach Gorham
Stephen Corri-
Subject Coordinator

Timetabling

All students at Junior Cycle have 3 periods of RE per week.

All TY students have 1 period of RE per week.

All students at Senior Cycle have 2 periods of RE per week.

Books

1st year

Know the Way and Religions in the Modern World

2nd year

Know the Way and Religions in the Modern World

3rd year

Know the Way and Religions in the Modern World

RE is an exam subject for all Junior Cycle classes.

TY

The teachers have developed their own programme for RE. TY RE is worth 10 credits.

Senior Cycle

RE at senior cycle is non-exam. However, students are taught elements of the RE syllabus. There is a focus on wellbeing and guidance and the students engage in initiatives to support wellbeing and guidance.

The schools policy for homework applies to the subject RE. All students are given work to complete at home at Junior Cycle on a regular basis. It is the responsibility of the teacher to check homework and copies.

Class Organisation

- ❖ Students line up outside their classroom and await their teacher.
- ❖ Students enter classroom and take the seat assigned to them.
- ❖ Students get their books and copies or folders ready for the lesson.
- ❖ Class register is called.
- ❖ Class usually begins with a recap of the previous class.

Planning for Students with Special Needs

- ❖ The Learning Support Department in the school informs the staff of students with learning difficulties.
- ❖ This is done by way of discussion at staff and tutor meetings.
- ❖ Individual teachers directly affected are given more detailed information on student's specific needs and how these needs may be satisfied within the classroom.
- ❖ Setting suitable learning challenges
- ❖ Responding to students' diverse learning needs
- ❖ Overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individual or groups of students.

Planning for Students with English as a Foreign Language

The department aims to ensure that the language of instruction and learning in classrooms is not a barrier to the academic development of the student.

RE Teachers will endeavour to:

- ❖ Send EAL students on errands when appropriate, to help improve their English
- ❖ Present students with opportunities to practice English in class
- ❖ Encourage students to use their bilingual dictionaries in class
- ❖ Seat EAL students throughout the class to aid integration
- ❖ Liaise with EAL teachers when necessary

Effective Teaching Methodologies

The basic method of teaching Religion involves the teacher reading/displaying and explaining/discussing class material while writing important notes on the white board or data projector.

The aim is to explain theoretical elements of the programme using:

- Textbooks
- Data Projector- PowerPoint presentations
- Mind maps
- Notes on board
- Handouts
- Table quiz
- Cooperative Learning/ Group Work/ Pair Work
- Peer explanation
- Think-Pair-Share
- Simulation/ Role-play
- Project Work
- Research Methods
- Individual research and written work

- Exploration of stories
- Interviews and surveys
- Internet Research
- Co-operative learning
- Think-Pair-Share
- 3-2-1 sheets
- KWL's

Students are required to pay attention as information is discussed/explained, take notes as required. For students with special needs, the teacher prints Power Point Presentations for the student for class.

Range/Variety of Resources

- Textbook & other reference books
- Resources from the Diocesan Advisers
- Bible
- Data projector – PowerPoint presentations
- Handouts/ worksheets
- Mindmaps
- Numerous Web Resources including suggestions for resources from the Diocesan Adviser
- Websites- tesconnect, truetube, youtube, godtube, studyclix, bbcbitesize, RTE, scoilnet and numerous others
- Posters/Photographs
- Class trips e.g to the Mosque
- Videos – Internet clips e.g. Youtube & GodTube
- Posters/Photographs

Availability/Use of ICT Facilities

All of our teachers have access to data projectors in classroom.

Cross-Curricular Subject links

History: Origins of religions
 The Reformation
 Impact of religion on world conflict
 The Holocaust
 Domestic history – Northern Ireland
 Civil Rights movement's worlds wide

Geography: Places of Origin
 The Lives of Religious Founders
 Social Justice

Art: Religious art and icons
 Religious festival decorations

S.P.H.E: Morality
 Decision Making

C.S.P.E: Stewardship
 Social Justice
 Morality
 Communities

English: Religious & bible stories
 Religious poetry

Literacy: Communication skills
 Use of Literacy strategies– key words, visual verbal squares, graphic organisers

Numeracy: Timelines
 Dates/ Era's
 Bible studies
 Graphic Organisers
 Page numbers

Faith Formation and Liturgical/Interfaith Year

The school recognises the wealth of variety that exists in St. Kevin's Community College. The Chaplain organises the following:

- Retreats
- Remembrance space
- Advent prayer service for exam students
- Ash Wednesday distribution
- Graduation time of reflection and thanksgiving (3rd & 6th year)

Chaplaincy Services.

The school chaplain works as part of the RE team, the Support Team and the local parish area. The Chaplain is part of the Critical Incident Management Team. The Chaplain is available through appointments and on request.

Consultation.

The RE team will consult with the Diocesan Advisor and management for reviewing and evaluating the RE policy.

Requests for the exclusion of students from R.E.

Requests from parents/guardians for their child to be excluded from Religious Education will be dealt with using the following steps:

1. A letter will be sent outlining the R.E. course and asking parents/guardians to consider their request with reference to this and to arrange a meeting with the Principal and subject co-ordinator to discuss said request.
2. Principal and subject co-ordinator will meet with the relevant parent/guardian to outline procedures and arrangements if the exclusion from R.E. is to go ahead.

3. Parent/guardian will sign 'Exclusion from Religious Education' form outlining the agreement with the school.

Arrangements for students excluded from R.E.

Students who have been excluded from Religious Education following the steps outlined above shall follow the following arrangements, agreed upon by the parent/guardian of relevant students.

- Students will remain in the classroom in which R.E. is being taught.
- Students are to use this time to read or take part in extra study but are not permitted to do homework.
- Students are subject to the usual school rules and class code as outlined in the school journal.
- Students who do not follow these rules are subject to the same sanctions as those partaking in the R.E. class.

September 2018

NOTED AND ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT THIS 3rd DAY OF October
20 18.

SIGNED CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD: 

SECRETARY OF THE BOARD: 