**The Religious Education Department**

The RE Department at SFX is regarded as one of the core subjects within our school and as such has an important place in the development of the young people in our care. As a department we believe that young people should come to a realisation of their own spirituality and faith and be guided on this journey. In addition to this, it’s also important that we help pupils to strive for the greatest outcomes that they are capable of and so we believe that challenging pupils with complex ideas will promote resilience, tolerance and understanding.

There are five members of staff within the department. The RE department contains a number of very experienced members of staff who take a leading role in the life of the school.

All pupils in KS3 and KS4 have three lessons of RE per week.  If a student opts to study Philosophy at Ethics at KS5 this increases to six lessons per week, however if this route is not taken in sixth form all other students study a non-accredited course in Religious Studies and this enhances the Christian ethos of the school.

KS3 pupils follow the Archdiocesan scheme of work: People of God.

At Key Stage 4 pupils follow the GCSE course provided by Edexcel: Religious Studies Route A. At Key Stage 5 pupils follow OCR Religion and Ethics course.

The following comments are taken from our most recent Section 48 inspection report (June 2018):

* The extent to which the pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school is outstanding.
* Pupils participate with enthusiasm in the Catholic Life and mission of the school, and understand how the Mission aims to express clearly what they should be striving for, in this particular community, namely, “One family achieving the dream.”
* Pupils are proud of their Catholic school and seek to promote the justice and wellbeing of the wider community. This is evident in their wide ranging charitable outreach and involvement in projects that promote faith through action.
* The whole curriculum has the required focus on maximising potential in a way that makes it relevant to living Catholic life in society. The staff encourage pupils to reflect spiritually on the meaning of what they learn and how to apply it. They ensure that pupils’ moral development is founded upon the highest expectations of right behaviour.