

The Spiritual Life of the School and Its Relationship to the Curriculum

At Cardinal Heenan we are proud to be a community where we place our faith in education. As a Catholic school we acknowledge how important it is for pupils and staff to recognise God's loving presence in our daily lives. Our faith is at the centre of all our work at Cardinal Heenan; every day starts with prayers during assemblies and registration, led by pupils and staff. We cherish our Catholic belief and identity whilst seeking to ensure that all pupils have an understanding of the diverse religious cultures in Britain today.

Throughout the school year pupils have the opportunity to participate in the Sacramental Life of the Church; Mass is celebrated regularly and the Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered during Advent and Lent. The seasons and feasts of the Liturgical year are marked by assemblies and services that are planned and led by pupils.

We are a caring community; we provide strong pastoral support and our lay chaplain is a presence with whom pupils and staff can talk. At Cardinal Heenan we take Jesus' call to love our neighbours seriously and we regard works of charity as an essential part of Catholic education. In response to this we support local, national and international charities.

Days of retreat and reflection are considered to be an important part of all pupils' spiritual and moral development and opportunities for retreat are provided for all pupils and staff.

Our Chapel

Our chapel lies at the heart of Cardinal Heenan. The chapel is open throughout the school day: pupils and staff are welcome to visit at break and lunchtimes. Mass is celebrated regularly.

The Liturgy is prepared by a different classes. Whole school Masses take place on important feast days in the Church's calendar.

Departmental Mission Statements

As a community of faith we believe that each member of our school community should have the opportunity to participate in and contribute to the Catholic life of the school. Each department acknowledges its contribution to the Catholic life of the school, expressed in mission statements. We are proud to be a community of faith and learning at of Cardinal Heenan.

Religious Education

In Religious Education we believe that each person is created in the image and likeness of God and is called to live in a relationship with Him. We celebrate and embrace the uniqueness of each individual as we work together to deepen our relationship with God. Religious Education contributes to our learning and faith community by:

- Helping us to know God and recognise his presence in their lives

- Enabling us to recognise their own value and worth
- Assisting us to form good relationships
- Teaching us to recognise the importance and dignity of others
- Enabling us to understand the life and teachings of the Catholic Church
- Promoting a sense of tolerance and respect for all people
- Developing an awareness of our responsibility to care for God's creation
- Encouraging us to question and seek answers to the important questions in life.

English

In English we believe that words and language are essential to all human life and activity. The Bible says: 'In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.' We believe that all human creativity and thought depends on words and it is through our language that we can express our love for God, for his creation and for each other. English contributes to our learning and faith community by:

- Allowing pupils opportunities to question and reflect on the written word, literature, media and social texts
- Encouraging creativity and enquiry
- Giving pupils opportunities to reason and explore ideas about justice and responsibility
- Teaching pupils to empathise with others and to respect their thoughts, feelings and opinions.

Mathematics

In Mathematics we believe in celebrating the success of each individual and promoting a collaborative classroom ethos where peers take pride in, and view as important, the need to help one another with learning. We believe in teaching and praising the perseverance of our pupils and having them view errors as an opportunity to learn. Mathematics contributes to our learning and faith community by:

- Equipping our pupils with the mathematical skills required to lead a fulfilled life.
- Helping our pupils see that mathematics is a subject which provides marvellous opportunities to hone powers of reasoning
- Cultivating a sense of wonder at the remarkable order, pattern and relationships inherent in God's world.

Science

In Science we believe in the words of Albert Einstein: *"A human being is part of a whole, called by us the 'Universe' —a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts, and feelings, as something separated from the rest—a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest us.*

Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circles of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty."

Science contributes to our learning and faith community by:

- Providing an opportunity to study the world, the universe and all of creation
- Presenting the opportunity to explore and develop ideas and opinions
- Encouraging debate around moral and ethical issues where all opinions are respected and valued.
- Creating a safe and nurturing environment where the aspirations of all pupils are equally valued
- Respecting and celebrating diversity and drawing on the varied experiences of the school community
- Promoting an awareness of the contributions of scientists from different backgrounds

Humanities

In Humanities we believe that the earth was provided by God and is ours to cherish. It is our goal to ensure that our pupils understand how to be good global citizens, independent thinkers and prepared for many of the social, moral and ethical challenges that we face. Humanities contributes to our learning and faith community by:

- Studying the history and geography of the planet
- Ensuring that our pupils are empathetic, tolerant and reflective individuals that will play a part in sharing the future of their world
- Studying the contrasting environments of the planet to understand the links between people and the environment
- Studying past conflicts so that they can be avoided in the future
- Understanding the past and present experiences of different world communities and promoting tolerance
- Encouraging pupils to develop and articulate opinions on important matters in the world.

Physical Education

In Physical Education we believe that God grants us the abilities to know, to care for and to protect the body that was made in His image. For pupils, this is learned when we promote wellness and model healthy lifestyles by teaching health concepts and physical fitness activities. We believe that Physical Education promotes life-long health based on physical and spiritual fitness. Physical Education contributes to our learning and faith community by:

- Helping pupils make choices related to fitness, based on the value of life and human dignity
- Encouraging pupils to value personal and group mental, physical, social, emotional, and spiritual growth

- Promoting among pupils physical fitness for the purpose of enhancing the quality of life
- Helping pupils recognise that life and physical health are precious gifts entrusted to us by God and that we must take reasonable care of them
- Enabling pupils to develop respect for each other's diversified skills

ICT, Business & Music

In ICT, Business and Music we believe that studying these subjects enriches lives by developing the whole person in the wider world. ICT, Business and Music discover and nurture pupils' God given talents enabling them to fulfil their potential where technologies and cultures are constantly changing. ICT, Business and Music contribute to our learning and faith community by:

- Providing pupils with the opportunity to explore the safe and ethical use of modern technology
- Considering the moral dilemmas presented when using these technologies
- Understanding that music provides us with the opportunity to reflect in awe and wonder at the beauty of God
- Making music which is contributing to the natural beauty of the world.

Art, Design & Technology

In Art, Design and Technology we believe in celebrating our creativity. As George Bernard Shaw said, *"Imagination is the beginning of creation"*. Art, Design and Technology contribute to our learning and faith community by:

- Nurturing a creative imagination and encouraging pupils to share in God's work of creation
- Allowing pupils to develop their appreciation and understanding of the world around us
- Teaching pupils to be good stewards of creation, using resources sustainably and responsibly.

Curriculum Support

In Curriculum Support we believe:

- God made you and He loves you
- God did a good job when He made you
- There is nothing you can do that will make God love you less. Nothing!
- You are amazing and we want you to be here with us.

Curriculum Support contributes to our learning and faith community by:

- Always being there for you
- Helping you do your best
- Helping you to be a good friend
- Looking after you.

Catholic Values, British Values

The promotion of 'British values' is central to Catholic education because British values have their origin in the Christian values of our nation. British values are considered by the present government to be:

- democracy
- rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect
- tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs

At Cardinal Heenan we recognise, not only the importance of helping pupils to develop academically but also spiritually, morally, socially and culturally. Our aim is that they are fully prepared for life in British society, to take their role as good citizens, able to make the best possible contribution to the Common Good. Within a framework of Catholic Christian Values, we teach the importance of British Values by exploring the meaning of what it is to live a good life. This provides the context and meaning for understanding why British values are important.

Our framework for understanding British values draws on the example of Jesus and his welcome and inclusion of all, which is developed in Catholic Social Teaching. At Cardinal Heenan we provide an education which focuses on the formation of the whole person and on our vocation and purpose in life. We place a significant emphasis on the celebration of individuality and difference within our communities and our calling to work for the Common Good, in the service of others.

Our Catholic Ethos makes a tangible difference to the way we work together and with our wider communities in upholding democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs.