



Holy Cross

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Holy Cross Curriculum Religious Education



Ambitious and Challenging
Broad and Balanced
Equality and Opportunity

Key Stage 2

Domestic church family — Homes (God's dream for every family), People (the family of God in scripture), Ourselves (created in the image and likeness of God), Loving (God who never stops loving).

Baptism / Confirmation belonging Promises (promises made at Baptism), Called (Confirmation: a call to witness) Life choices Marriage, Vocation and commitment (priesthood and religious life)

Advent / Christmas loving—Visitors (Advent: waiting for the coming of Jesus), Gift (God's gift of love and friendship in Jesus), Hope (Advent; waiting in joyful hope for Jesus), Expectations (Jesus born to show God's love to the world).

Local Church Community—Journeys (Christian family's journey with Jesus), Community (ministries in the parish), Mission (Jesus' mission in the diocese [ecumenism]), Sources (The Bible, special book for the Church).

Eucharist relating—Listening & Sharing, Giving and Receiving, Memorial sacrifice (The Eucharist the living memorial of Jesus' sacrifice, Unity (Eucharist enables people to live in communion).

Lent / Easter—Giving all (Lent a time to remember Jesus' total giving), Self discipline, Sacrifice, Death and new life (Celebrating Jesus' death & resurrection)

Pentecost serving—Energy (Gifts of the Holy Spirit), New Life (To hear & live the Easter message), Transformation (the Spirit's transforming power), Witnesses (The Holy Spirit enables people to become witnesses).

Reconciliation Inter-relating—Choices (conscience and Reconciliation), Building Bridges (admitting wrong, being reconciled with God and each other, Sacrament of Reconciliation), Freedom and Responsibility (commandments), Healing (Sacrament of the Sick).

Universal Church word—Special Places, God's People (saints), Stewardship, Common good.

Year 7

Who is God?
Mystery and truth. Revelation. Characteristics of God (omnipotent, omniscient, benevolent, eternal). The trinity.

Who is Jesus?
The historical context and the nature of Jesus.

Skills: Learning to appreciate more than one point of view. Being able to explain a concept by giving a reason for it.

Parables of God's Kingdom
A study of the parables of God's Kingdom and their interpretations.

Lent and Holy Week
The events and significance of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection.

Skills: Understanding how to interpret stories and explain them independently. Being able to sequence events in chronological order.

Judaism
Features of the synagogue (Ner Tamid, Bimah, Ark, Torah Scrolls). Bar Mitzvah, Shabbat, Jewish Care and Mitzvah Day.

Sacramental Imagination
An overview of the seven sacraments. Signs and symbols associated with Baptism and the Eucharist.

Skills: To be able to explain religious symbols and their significance.

Cultural Exposure:

Speaking and listening. Articulating opinions and explaining reasons for them. Reflecting on actions and consequences according to Catholic beliefs. Respect for other world faiths and ways of life. All pupils will participate in a day retreat at Lowe House.

Year 8

Covenant
The meaning and significance of God's covenant. The fall and original sin. Abraham and Moses. A reflection on God's unconditional love.

Reconciliation
Conscience, Forgiveness and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. (contrition, confession, absolution, penance).

Skills: Critical thinking exploring faith and the challenges of being faithful. Application of Catholic teaching to different scenarios.

Confirmation
Pentecost and the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Oil of chrism and choosing a saint's name. Preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Faith and Science
The creation story. Literal vs symbolic interpretations. Advanced technology and Catholic responses. Stewardship, nuclear weapons.

Skills: Understanding that different Christians may have different views/interpretations. To be able to explain how faith can affect your actions/way of life.

Hinduism
Dharma, Karma and reincarnation. Prayer at the home shrine / mandir. Diwali and Sewa Day.

Catholic Social Teaching
Key principles "love your neighbour", justice, Laudato Si. Putting CST into action e.g. Mother Teresa and the work of CAFOD.

Skills: To explain key beliefs. To explain how these beliefs and lived out using examples.

Cultural Exposure:

Understanding that history shapes faith communities. Reflecting on how faith can affect people's lives. Respect for other world faiths and ways of life. Opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Year 9

Islam
99 names of Allah, the life of the Prophet Mohammed, the importance of the Qur'an and the Hadiths, the Five Pillars of Islam.

The Sanctity of Life
The dignity of the human person, abortion, euthanasia, hospice care.

Skills: Learning to put forward a convincing argument and support it with evidence. To begin to evaluate using another point of view.

The Problem of Evil and Suffering
Moral and natural evil. The Augustinian and Irenaean theodicies. Non-religious views on suffering. The suffering servant. Catholic responses to suffering.

How can we know what is true?
Fake news. An introduction to Biblical criticism. Other Christian thinkers traditional and modern e.g. St Augustine / Oscar Romero. The Magisterium and Second Vatican Council.

Skills: Comparing non-religious views with the views of religious believers. Critical thinking and ability to evaluate the reliability of various sources.

How can we live as covenant people?
The trinity. The Incarnation, Jesus as fully human and fully divine. The events of the Paschal Mystery and celebration of it in church today. Different Christian understandings of the Eucharist. Eschatology and the belief in salvation through Jesus Christ.

Skills: To explain key concepts and reasons for Catholic beliefs, using sources to support points. Evaluation.

Cultural Exposure:

Challenging stereotypes. Learning to appreciate different beliefs. Opportunity for Q&A with a Muslim guest speaker.

Year 10

GCSE Catholic Christianity Edexcel Specification A - Paper 1A

Practices
Sacraments. Liturgical vs non liturgical worship, funerals, prayer, popular piety, pilgrimage, Catholic Social Teaching, Evangelism.

Skills: Being able to explain signs and symbols of worship. To understand and explain how worship can have an impact on the life of a believer using examples.

Sources of Wisdom and Authority
The Bible, the magisterium, Vatican II, the Church as the body of Christ, the four marks of the Church, Mary, sources of ethical decision making.

Forms of Expression and Ways of Life
Church features, sacred objects, religious artwork, sculpture, music and drama.

Skills: To identify, explain and evaluate different sources of authority. To identify religious symbols and forms of expression and evaluate how they are used to express belief.

Paper 3A - Philosophy and Ethics
Arguments for the existence of God including revelation, visions, miracles, religious experiences, the Design Argument, the Causation Argument, the problem of evil and suffering and responses to it.

Religious Teachings on Relationships and Family in the 21st Century
The purpose and importance of marriage, sexual relationships, the family, Catholic support for the family, family planning, divorce, equality of men and women in the family, gender prejudice including the role of women in the church.

Skills: Skills: To critically evaluate Catholic teachings against secular teachings and beliefs.

Cultural Exposure:

Listening to various genres of music. Studying artwork e.g. Michelangelo's 'The Creation of Adam' and Rembrandt's 'The Return of the Prodigal Son.' Statues e.g. Christ the Redeemer. Opportunity to listen to a guest speaker. Opportunity to visit a synagogue.

Year 11

Term 1 Paper 2F - Judaism - Beliefs and Teachings
The nature of the Almighty, the Shekinah, the Messiah, the Covenant at Sinai and with Abraham, Pikuach Nefesh, the mitzvot, life after death.

Judaism Practices
Public worship, Tenakh and Talmud, food laws, prayers, the Shema and Amidah, rituals, Shabbat, festivals, the synagogue.

Skills: To identify and explain key teachings in Judaism. To explain religious practices including the differences between orthodox and reform Judaism. To evaluate the importance of religious practices.

Paper 1A Catholic Christianity revision

- Beliefs and Teachings
- Practices
- Sources of Wisdom and Authority
- Forms of Expression and Ways of Life

Paper 3A Revision

- Philosophy and Ethics
- Religious Teachings on Relationships and Family in the 21st Century

Paper 2F Revision

- Judaism - Beliefs and Teachings
- Judaism Practices

Skills: Retrieval and revision strategies. Metacognition. Exam preparation including timing issues, annotation of the questions and exam technique.

Final revision and exams.

Cultural Exposure:

Learning to appreciate other points of view and ways of life.