

## Religious Education

### Criteria for the identification of giftedness in RE

A child who has been identified as Gifted and Talented may show one, or more, of the following:

- Flair for the topic they are studying within RE.
- Shows sensitivity and empathy towards their peers and to people in need.
- A high moral awareness combined with an ability to express it clearly.
- Understands theological principles to a degree in advance of their peers.
- Demonstrates evaluation skills to a degree in advance of their peers.

### Religious Education

The nature of Religious Education means that pupils are identified not only through their work in R.E. but also through their role in the school. Therefore supporting your child to develop their skills in R.E. will include academic work, but will also include exploring their moral awareness and role within the school.

### Academic Activities

- You may wish to encourage your son to stretch themselves with levelled pieces of work your son will be set each half term. Each of these levelled pieces has been designed so that they have scope for stretching the more able and extending beyond the curriculum.
- Find time to discuss values and beliefs with your son, for they are central to RE. Part of the model of ability includes leadership, negotiating, caring and good interpersonal skills. Make sure that your son realises that you place as much importance on these abilities as those found in mathematics or science.
- Encourage your son to read a quality newspaper every day and to watch one of the main news programmes on television in the evening. However, do be careful about what your son sees, for they may be affected more deeply than their peers and do not possess an adult capacity to handle really unpleasant events.
- Purchase, or borrow from the library, a copy of *The Philosophy Files* by Stephen Law. This is a collection of philosophical puzzles “as old as the hills and as topical as today.” The fascinating text, that includes aliens, disembodied brains, virtual reality, and even a talking pig, is enhanced by the entertaining illustrations by Daniel Postgate.
- Encourage your son to use their interpersonal skills by helping in the community, becoming a ‘buddy’ (friend) to a younger child at the school, assisting at the local primary school, giving time to an established charity. These are possible within the school, but if you do organise it outside school you may need to ‘vet’ the situation for safety reasons.

- Encourage reflection and higher order thinking skills. This can be through the material provided by SAPERE (Society for Philosophical Enquiry in Education website: [www.sapere.net](http://www.sapere.net)), or through looking for thought provoking novels such as Malorie Blackman's *Noughts and Crosses* or *Sophie's World* by Jostein Gaarder.
- Encourage spiritual reflection as well. This can be achieved through studying the readings for Mass on Sundays and asking your son to find their central message and to compose a brief homily or sermon.

### **Role within the School**

The Religious Education Department offer a number of opportunities to stretch the more able outside of lessons. You may want to encourage your child join or participate in:

- Faith Revealed – A Christian Discussion Group
- Youth Café – A Faith Exploration Group
- Young Catholic Writers Awards
- Retreats
- Charity Fundraising
- Student Liturgy Committee