

St Richard's Catholic College

Spiritual Life Policy



The Policy was approved by the Governing Body: March 2018

Chair of Governors: Aislin Horan

The Governing Body will review the policy in March 2019

SPIRITUAL LIFE POLICY

St Richard's is a Catholic College and parents choose to send their children here because they wish them to be educated in the Catholic faith. The college has a Spiritual Life Team who are responsible for promoting and co-ordinating liturgical activities throughout the year and for leading the whole community in supporting the spiritual journeys of all who come to learn and work at St Richard's. This is led by the Lay Chaplain.

We are fortunate in having a strong Chaplaincy team that is supported by priests who lead the sacramental programmes of the school. The Chaplains are regularly in college and are available to staff, pupils and parents. They lead assemblies, our full school Masses on special occasions and on Holy Days of Obligation. The year Masses, Liturgies and form Masses are celebrated on a rota basis by the Priests of both Deaneries. We are very grateful for this co-operation. The Chaplains, together with members of the Spiritual Life team, are always ready to assist with the preparation of form and year Masses and they provide pupils with the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. New staff receive inset training to support them in this aspect of college life.

Along with the RE Department, the Chaplaincy team is involved in the "RETREAT" days and our bi-annual Rome Pilgrimage, which give the pupils the opportunity to spend some time together to consider their religious commitment.

Assemblies are held every day and these are occasions when the college comes together as a community in prayer and worship. Assemblies are led by the Lay Chaplain, the Principal, the Assistant Principals, and Pastoral Leaders. We encourage groups of pupils, under the direction of their Personal Tutors, to prepare and present assemblies. Groups of musicians provide the music for the hymns. Outside speakers give variety and breadth to our themes. Opportunities arise throughout the liturgical year for particular emphasis to be given to our spiritual growth and the material needs of others.

Within the life of a Catholic college, the prayer life is an essential element of faith development. **A prayer should be said at the beginning of registration each day.** At the start of each week, every member of staff is emailed prayers for the week that reflect the Gospel readings. Grace should be said before the start of lunch. Each Form group has a Tutor Prayer Box which contains all the necessary things to assist in Form prayer, such as bible, rosary, form candle, standing cross and Cloths in the liturgical colours. The Lay Chaplain has also put together a Tutor Prayer Guide book. Prayer may be led by the teacher but this is not necessary as members of the class should do it on a rota basis. **A prayer or reading should also be said at the end of the day as a reflection of the day's work.** Alongside this the Lay Chaplain has put together a set of resources for Personal tutors to use to plan and put together their Form Service.

Underpinning the sacramental and spiritual life of the college is the expectation that all members of staff will help promote the spiritual work of the college. This is helped by the existence and display of a very caring relationship among its members. Lay Chaplain and Deputy Principal provide support for new staff and those who require it.

Alongside the Spiritual Life team there exists key carers among staff who are willing to help any member of staff who is distressed or in difficulty.

The Chaplaincy team, the Staff Well-Being team and the Leadership and Management Team are also available to help any teacher who feels under pressure or worried, whether due to the demands of the task in hand or for personal reasons. The Lay Chaplain is available at designated times for staff to come and talk in confidence. Please do not hesitate to approach any of the above and rest assured that the strictest confidence will be guaranteed.