



Salvatorian College

PARENT GUIDE: A FAITH SCHOOL

This leaflet has been designed as a guide for non-Catholic parents considering enrolment for their son at Salvatorian College, though will also be of interest to all those who are interested in the special nature of a faith school.

Do you have to be Catholic to attend a Catholic School?

Many people assume that you have to be Catholic in order to attend a Catholic school. When questioned by parents we tend to respond along the lines that Salvatorian College may indeed be a Catholic school but it is not a school just for Catholics!

Indeed, we positively welcome those of other faiths or those of no faith at all, as long as they are willing to support the positive ethos of the School. Catholic schools are by their very nature inter-cultural and are places of hospitality for all children whatever their system of belief. At the time of writing 48% of the school pupil group is from a non-Catholic background. The practices and observances of other faiths are respected and accommodated – for example Friday Prayers for Muslim pupils.

What will be son be taught?

As a Catholic school, the subject Religious Education, is taught for ten percent of the week. However, the scope of the lessons is wide and no religious conviction is pre-supposed. As well as teaching from scripture and fostering in our pupils an understanding of Christian doctrine, we consider the big questions of life and study an ethical and moral framework with vital and interesting topics that concern everyone. Other world religions and non-religious views are also studied and discussed.

What is the different and what is the same about the school day compared to other schools?

We begin lessons and gatherings with prayers and reflections that allow for all to participate or simply allow for participants to stand quietly and respectfully with the headspace for private thought. The rest of a daily schedule includes academic subjects, such as Maths, English, History, and Science along with time for recreation, and time to meet and play sport with friends. The outcome of excellent religious education is literate and engaged young people who have the knowledge, skills and understanding to reflect spiritually, ethically and theologically.

Does my son have to study Religious Education?

Religious Education is a right for all pupils and is compulsory for all pupils in our academy. Therefore, we do not support selective withdrawal from Religious Education. We do not attempt to convert or indoctrinate pupils but want to teach in an academic way that respects everyone's viewpoint. Virtually all of our pupils tell us that they value Religious Education lessons and enjoy the faith and spiritual life of the school.

Does my son have to go to Catholic worship and services?

The school week includes opportunities for voluntary participation in prayer and liturgy in the school Chapel. On occasion, Form Groups and Year Groups attend scheduled liturgies (Masses). No pupil is made to take an active part against their wishes – we simply ask that they show respect to the beliefs of others by sitting quietly and respectfully.