

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

POLICY ON: Chaplaincy

School Mission Statement: *“To guide and encourage students to be responsible, caring and confident in a climate of Gospel values where they can realise their full potential and celebrate each other’s success”.*

Setting the Scene

“In working with young people, Do not try to call them back to where they were, and do not call them to where you are, beautiful as that place may seem to you. You must have the courage to go with them to a place neither you nor they have been before. (*Christianity Rediscovered – V J Donovan*)

The Chaplain of the school is appointed by the Archbishop. The Lay Chaplain appointed by the Governors of the school. In addition is the Chaplaincy team consistently the Head teacher, Deputy Head teacher, Lay Chaplain and Head of RE. Chaplaincy is significant in nurturing the spiritual and religious life of the school and supporting staff and pupils’ pastoral needs.

The Chaplaincy Team is involved in the following:

- Welcome Services
- Voluntary, Holy Day and Special Masses and other Sacramental liturgies
- Support with assemblies
- Classroom visits
- Interdepartmental work
- In service training for staff
- Listening to pupils in need of additional time and support
- Liaison with the Diocesan Youth Service
- Liaison with and support of Catholic Partnership Chaplaincy teams
- Networking with other agencies
- Retreats

The team meets fortnightly with the Headteacher and the Head of the Religious Education Department to plan ahead and to review and monitor existing practice.

A member of the Chaplaincy Team liaises with the pastoral leadership teams and updates relevant staff on the needs of individual pupils as well as informing them about Liturgical events.