



St Francis Xavier Catholic Sixth Form College Catholic Ethos Committee

Terms of Reference 2025

Purpose

The purpose of the Catholic Ethos Committee is to support and enhance the Catholic identity, ethos and mission of St Francis Xavier Catholic Sixth Form College, ensuring that it remains at the heart of all aspects of college life and aligns with the vision of the Archdiocese of Southwark.

Responsibilities

- a) To monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic life and mission of the college, ensuring that it aligns with the teachings and values of the Catholic Church and the Magisterium.
- b) To review and contribute to the development of policies and procedures that reflect the priority given to the Catholic identity, charism, and mission of the college.
- c) To actively promote and implement the Archbishop's vision and diocesan charism for the Archdiocese of Southwark and engage with diocesan policies and initiatives.
- d) To foster a partnership between the college and its local parishes in the Balham, Wandsworth and surrounding areas.
- e) To foster relationships with Catholic organisations and agencies, including educational, charitable, and faith-based organisations.
- f) To ensure that resources are targeted at those in greatest need, both materially and educationally, reflecting the Church's preferential option for the poor and vulnerable.
- g) To lead by example in respecting the dignity of workers, promoting high levels of pastoral care for staff, and prioritising the physical and mental well-being of all staff members.
- h) To oversee the integration of the Catholic understanding of reality into the taught curriculum at Key Stage 5, collaborating with subject leaders to make connections between different subject areas and reflecting the richness of Catholic contributions to culture, theology, philosophy, science, and the arts.

- i) To monitor the provision and quality of Religious Education, and the college's Chaplaincy programme.
- j) To evaluate the effectiveness of the college's Catholic life and mission through the Catholic Schools' inspection criteria, seeking feedback from parents/carers, staff, students and all stakeholders and offering challenge and support where necessary.
- k) To oversee the college's liturgical life, including Collective Worship, Mass, retreats, and prayer opportunities for students and staff.
- l) To ensure staff formation, including induction in Catholic education and ongoing professional development in faith formation.
- m) To ensure that all relevant college documentation, including the website and prospectus, clearly articulates the college's identity as a Catholic sixth form college with its distinctive Gospel values.
- n) To monitor the college's commitment to Catholic Social Teaching, community service, and outreach to those in need.
- o) To support vocations awareness and promote understanding of different vocations within the Catholic Church.

Membership

The Catholic Ethos Committee should consist of governors who have a strong commitment to the Catholic faith and a deep understanding of the college's mission and ethos. The committee may include:

- The Chair of the Governing Body
- RE/Catholic Link Governor
- Other Foundation Governors (at least one must be present)
- The Principal or a member of the Senior Leadership Team
- The college Chaplain (where applicable)
- Other relevant stakeholders

Associate Principals may attend meetings as observers.

Meeting Arrangements

- The committee shall meet twice a year

- Quorum: Three Full Governors

Reporting

The committee should provide regular reports to the full Governing Body, highlighting key findings, recommendations, and actions taken to enhance the Catholic life and mission of the college.

Review

These Terms of Reference should be reviewed and agreed by the Governing Body annually.

Reviewed by the Catholic Ethos Committee on 6th November 2025, for recommendation to the Full Governing Body.