

**St Francis Xavier Sixth Form College
Meeting of the Catholic Ethos Committee
Held on Thursday 6th November 2025 at 7pm
Remotely via Zoom**

Present:

Sarah Medicoff – Foundation Governor
Nader Sheta – Chair of Governors/Chair of the Committee
Graham Thompson – Principal
Gabrielle Williams Hamer – Co-opted Governor/Chair of Audit Committee

In attendance:

Clare Baskott - Clerk to Governors
Ciaran Graham – Associate Principal
Deacon Tony – College Chaplain
Rebecca Shortland – Head of RE

Apologies:

Karen Foan – Associate Principal

**The meeting was quorate throughout.
All reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.**

Item 1. Opening Prayer

The Principal opened the meeting at 5:32pm with a prayer.

Item 2. Election of Chair of the Committee

Nader Sheta was elected as Chair of the Committee for a one-year term of office.

Item 3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Karen Foan.

Item 4. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

Item 5. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

Item 6. Review and Approval of Terms of Reference

The Committee reviewed the Terms of Reference and agreed the following amendments:

Action 1 – Point d: Re-worded to:

"To foster partnerships between the college and its local parishes in the Balham, Wandsworth and surrounding areas."

Note: Sentence two was removed.

Action 2:

Point f was deleted.

Action 3:

It was agreed that the Committee would meet twice per year, in November and May.

Action 4 – Point n:

This was amended to read "all Relevant."

Action 5:

"Link Foundation Governor" was changed to "RE/Catholic Link Governor."

Deacon Tony gave an overview of the Deanery meetings in which he was involved.

A discussion took place regarding the number of staff and students who had converted to Catholicism. The Associate Principal reported that whilst several students converted each year, he was unaware of any staff who had converted, in the time he had worked at the college.

Item 7. Catholic Schools Inspection

The Associate Principal gave an overview of the inspection framework and criteria.

Self-Evaluation and Action Plan

The Associate Principal presented an overview of the College's Catholic Self-Evaluation Document (CSED) and the action plan in place. The CSED was last updated on 1st October 2025 and was a collaboration between the Associate Principal, the Head of RE and Deacon Tony. The Associate Principal explained that it was a live document, which was continually updated.

Inspection Framework

The Associate Principal referred to page 6, and the overall effectiveness grades. He gave an overview of the Catholic Inspection framework and how it was divided into sections.

The Associate Principal reported that there had been an increase in the number of students attending Mass.

Governor Question: How many grades are there in the Catholic Inspection?

Response: Each section receives a grade and then there is one overall grading.

Events

Deacon Tony gave an overview of charity and community events which had included:

- St George's Cathedral for ALS students
- MacMillan coffee morning
- Breast Cancer Care event
- CAFOD
- Remembrance Day event
- Make a difference Week
- Hope Week
- Supporting Mary's Meals
- SFX Feast Day
- Care Home carol service
- Nursery carol service
- Supplied raffle prize to the Ace of Clubs fundraiser

Daily Reflections and Confirmations

Deacon Tony reported that daily reflections were on-going. Last year, five students had been confirmed.

The Committee thanked Tony for the impressive array of events which enhanced Catholic social teaching and charity.

Item 8. Religious Education

Overview of RP and Provision

The Head of RE gave an overview of the Catholic life and mission and the core RP curriculum, reporting that the provision had improved year-on-year with the implementation of the NOCN provision for RE. The Head of RE gave an overview of the courses available to students at all academic levels. New courses for foundation students were being introduced.

Review of CSED

The Head of RE gave an overview of the CSED and reported that student's enjoyment and achievement of RP had been rated as outstanding.

Subject knowledge had been graded as 2.1 because the college used non-specialist Teachers to teach the RP curriculum. Expectations were high and attendance was improving. The Head of RP had received positive feedback from the Diocese, and she had been asked to assist other schools and colleges with their RE curriculum.

The Committee thanked the Head of RE for her update and hard work on the RP policy and curriculum, and noted that it ensured all students received a good offer.

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

A Governor asked about the RSE curriculum. The Head of RE explained that the college provided training for teachers which was specifically for the sex and relationship

curriculum, and it was a Catholic approved programme. The college also had a policy on the RSE curriculum.

NOCN Qualifications

A discussion took place about the NOCN qualifications.

It was agreed that the Associate Principal will share the RSE Policy with Governors.

Action: Associate Principal.

Item 9. Catholic Life and Mission

Prayer and Liturgy

Review of CSED

The Committee noted the increasing number of students attending Mass and prayer sessions. The college provided daily reflections.

The Committee discussed prayer and liturgy, noting how receptive staff were to this offer.

Item 10. Committee Working Arrangements

Covered above.

Item 11. Priorities and Action Planning

It was agreed that the Committee will continue to monitor the CSED and report to the Full Governing Body. It was noted that the college's Catholic ethos was also reported to Governors through the Principal's report and through the activities at the Governors' focus Morning.

It was agreed that the RE Link Governor will visit the college. **Action: RE Link Governor.**

Item 12. Risk Management

Identification of Any Risks Related to Catholic Life and Mission

A discussion took place about the percentage of Catholic students at the college. The Principal explained that it was circa 30%, which was similar to other Catholic Sixth Form Colleges.

Item 13. Any Other Business

None.

Item 14. Date of Next Meeting

May 2026. **Action: Clerk to arrange.**

Item 15. Closing Prayer

The meeting closed in prayer at 6:47pm.

Action Log

Meeting 1 - 6th November 2025

Item	Action	Responsible	Status	Due Date
1	Share RSE Policy	Associate Principal	○	ASAP
2	RE Link Governor to visit college	RE Link Governor	○	ASAP
3	Clerk to update Terms of Reference	Clerk	✓	ASAP
4	Clerk to arrange May meeting	Clerk	○	ASAP

Attendance Register

Name	Role	Meeting Nov 25	Meeting May 26
Sarah Medicoff	Foundation Governor	✓	
Nader Sheta	Chair of Governors/Chair of Committee	✓	
Graham Thompson	Principal	✓	
Gabrielle Williams Hamer	Co-opted Governor/Chair of Audit Committee	✓	