



**TEMPLE  
CARRIG**  
SCHOOL

## Religious Education and Spirituality Development Policy

Temple Carrig School is, first and foremost, a Christian school. The Statement of Ethos<sup>i</sup> states that the School “seeks to develop spiritual and moral values”, and students and staff are expected to aspire to the highest Christian ideals and standards as they go about their teaching and learning in the School<sup>ii</sup>.

The Admissions Policy further states that “Religious Education and Assemblies are an integral part of the ethos and educational structure of the school.”<sup>iii</sup> As such, it is mandatory that students attending Temple Carrig Secondary School participate in these areas of the school curriculum.

However, while the education offered in Temple Carrig School will naturally be shaped and flavoured by the School’s Church of Ireland heritage and patronage, it will also be designed to be accessible to members of all Christian denominations and to those with no Christian faith at all. Students will be expected to participate in all Temple Carrig School activities, although it is expected and understood that the meaningfulness of certain occasions will be greater for some than for others.

### **Obligatory Religious Instruction in Temple Carrig School**

#### *Religious Education Classes*

The School will follow the standard curriculum for Religious Education, as designed by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA). This will involve compulsory R.E. classes for all students up to Transition Year. Students may then choose to take R.E. as an exam subject for the Leaving Cert, or they can drop the subject at this stage.

#### *Assemblies*

All students will attend School Assemblies during the course of the week. These Assemblies will comprise a short Bible reading (chosen for its relevance to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Irish teenagers), a brief interpretation of the reading and a prayer, as well as school notices for that day.

#### *Compulsory Church Services*

All students will participate in a Dedication Service at the start of the school year. This service will comprise readings, hymns, prayers, an address by the Principal and other items, such as the Conferral of Prefects.

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<sup>i</sup> See also the *Temple Carrig School Statement of Ethos*.

<sup>ii</sup> See also the *Temple Carrig School Code of Conduct*.

<sup>iii</sup> See also the *Temple Carrig School Admissions Policy*.

All students will participate in a Thanksgiving Service at the end of the school year. This service will comprise readings, hymns, prayers, an address by a guest speaker and other items, such as a Valedictory ceremony for students who are leaving the School.

### **Other Christian Practices in Temple Carrig School**

What has been outlined above will be the only obligatory aspects of religious practices and education in the School.

Other Christian observances and faith development will be open and offered to all, but non-compulsory. Such activities may include (but is not restricted to):

- An annual Candlelit Carol Service
- Lenten and Easter observances
- Ongoing non-denominational Christian services throughout the year
- Participation in a *Youth Alpha* course
- Participation in activities of a *Christian Union* club (which may include overnight events)
- Participation in inter-school and extra-curricular Christian events
- The opportunity to explore one's own faith with the support of members of staff or clergy.

### **Employment in Temple Carrig School**

Temple Carrig School is an equal opportunities employer and does not discriminate in terms of religious background when appointing members of staff.

Approved by the Board of Management: 27<sup>th</sup> August 2013