

16th March 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Re: OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Religious Studies

The Religious Studies Department offers OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Religious Studies as an alternative GCSE qualification. The benefits of this qualification are that it is 100% coursework/portfolio based, so it suits students who find examinations challenging. Having carefully considered your daughter's attainment in this subject to date, we recommend that she is best suited to this course to ensure that she achieves a good qualification in Religious Studies.

OCN NI

Open College Network Northern Ireland (OCN NI) is a regulated Awarding Organisation based in Northern Ireland. OCN NI is regulated by CCEA Regulation to develop and award professional and technical (vocational) qualifications from Entry Level up to and including Level 5 across all sector areas. In addition, OCN NI is regulated by Ofqual to award similar qualification types in England.

Qualification Summary

This qualification will enable your daughter to develop knowledge and understanding in Religious Studies by building a portfolio in the following areas:

- Exploring Personal Identity and Faith
- Life of a Famous Person of Faith
- Exploring Religious Traditions within Own Community
- World Faith
- Addiction
- Charity and Religious Charities
- Life and Death Issues
- Marriage and Divorce
- Prejudice and Reconciliation

Grading

Grading for this OCN GCSE Religious Studies qualification is Pass/Fail. A Pass grade is equivalent to a B grade at GCSE. This is the highest grade to be achieved in this GCSE qualification.

Progression

The OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Religious Studies qualification at Grade B will equate to 46 points for admission to Post 16 study in Loreto Grammar School. As this OCN qualification is continuous assessment based it will not enable progression to Religious Studies at A' Level. Level 2 Learners can progress to further Religious Studies qualifications and/or further learning in this area or into employment.

Entitlement Framework

The OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Religious Studies has been approved by the Department of Education and added to the NIEFQAN file. Whilst this qualification can be counted as part of a school's 5 GCSEs or equivalent performance measure, it is up to the individual further/higher education establishment or employer to decide whether to accept it as a GCSE equivalent.

If you wish to discuss this further, please contact me by telephoning the school.

Having carefully considered the information above, please read and sign the consent form in the attached link, indicating whether or not you give permission for your daughter's placement in the **OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Religious Studies Course**.

<https://forms.office.com/e/OKR3hUD3GL>

This response should be returned to your daughter's RE teacher before **Friday 24th March 2023**.

Yours sincerely,

Phyllis Ferguson
Head of Religious Studies Department