



**ALAN
DEI ET APOSTOLICAE SEDIS GRATIA
EPISCOPUS
BRENTWOODENSIS**

The teaching of Catholic Religious Education is subject to the authority of the Church. It is for the Bishops' Conference to issue General Norms on the subject and for the Diocesan Bishop to regulate and watch over it (canon 804).

In discharge of these obligations, the Bishops Conference of England and Wales has decided that all Diocesan Bishops require any schools teaching the GCSE in Religious Studies only to use a specification that conforms the parameters set out below.

Accordingly, in conformity with the intentions of the Bishops' Conference, I hereby issue the following Directive for all Catholic Schools in the Diocese.

Any Catholic school in the Diocese wishing to teach the GCSE in Religious Studies is only to select an examination specification which requires:

- A study of Catholic Christianity as the primary religion;
- A 50% study of Catholic Christianity, covering all four topics:
 - Beliefs and Teachings,
 - Practices,
 - Sources of Wisdom and Authority,
 - Forms of Expression and Ways of Life;
- A study of Judaism as the second religion.

This Directive applies to all teaching after 1st September 2016, and, unless revoked, remains in force during the period that the criteria document entitled: Religious Studies GCSE Subject Content published by the DfE in February 2015 remains effective.

Given at Cathedral House

L.S.

2nd November 2015

+ Alan Williams, S.J.

Episcopus Brentwoodensis