



Catholic religion in schools: an opportunity to grow together

What is “Catholic religious education” (IRC)?

IRC – which stands for “Insegnamento della religione cattolica” – is an optional subject which Italian schools must offer to all students, but is not compulsory to attend religion classes. Pupils’ parents, or the pupils themselves, can freely choose to attend the courses.

Is teaching of religion reserved only to Catholics? Do students have to be Catholic or do they have preliminarily to convert to Catholicism?

No, IRC is a cultural tuition offered to everyone: non-Catholics, non Christians, followers of other religions and non-believers included. It does not have the purpose of converting people to the Catholic faith; it does not include catechism or prayers.

What do you do during the course of IRC at school?

You are helped by your teachers to answer to the fundamental questions of human life, accordingly with everyone’s age; to learn about the Bible; to debate the Mystery of God starting from the life and word of Jesus Christ; to study the basic principles of the Catholic faith; to return the spiritual and religious roots of the Italian and European culture; to compare the main world religions, and to find out their similarities. By doing so, we learn to know each other, to grow together, and eventually to understand better the Italian culture and traditions.

Who are the Catholic religion teachers?

They are professional teachers who, through their skills, want to contribute to the personal growth of the students, teaching basic values such as: reciprocal respect, solidarity and peaceful coexistence.

How and when to choose to attend Catholic religious education?

You express your choice by filling out the form when registering for the first year. The choice is valid each academic year, but you can always change the option for the following school years, informing the school administration within the given time frame.

For further information, do not hesitate to contact the Catholic religion (IRC) teacher sat your school!

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