R.S. Tier 2 Powerful Knowledge Curriculum Content

Our Vision for Religious Studies

Our R.S. curriculum is built around four key themes that run through Years 7 to 13. These are (1) Religious Belief, (2) Religious Practice, (3) Ethics (how we treat others), and (4) Philosophy (life's big questions). Students learn how religion, ethics, and philosophy shape the world around us and give life meaning and purpose.

Success in R.S. isn't just about knowledge, it is also about developing compassion, kindness, resilience, respect and an open mind towards others and the world we live in. Our curriculum encourages students to develop these mindsets as well as having the confidence to express their own beliefs and values

R.S. helps students develop the skills of discussion, reflection, empathy, and critical thinking. They learn to understand how religious belief and practice impact and influence the world as well as forming and evaluating their own beliefs and values through both discussion and written activities.

<u>Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9) Building the Foundations</u>

Year 7 (Starting Out)

Topic 1 Me and My World

Students are introduced to the concepts of faith and belief and what different religions say about God, creation, and how we should live. They'll learn what different religions and world views believe about how we should treat others and the world around us, and how faith can inspire people to make a positive difference.

Topic 2 Introduction to Islam (Beliefs and Practice)

Students will learn about key Muslim beliefs and practices, including beliefs about God, the Qur'an and the Five Pillars and how understanding different faiths helps promote respect, challenge prejudice and builds a more inclusive society.

Topic 3 Religion Through Time

Students will learn how people in ancient Egypt, Greece, and Rome had different religious and cultural beliefs about gods and the afterlife. They'll explore how these beliefs influenced daily life, worship, and festivals, and how some ideas still connect to religions today

Year 8 (Building Knowledge)

Topic 1 Contemplating God

In this unit, students will learn what it means to be a religious believer and how beliefs affect everyday life through a specific focus on Christianity, Judaism and Sikhism. They'll also explore and think about big questions like how the universe began, can miracles really happen and can God exist in the face of evil and suffering.

Topic 2 An introduction to Buddhism (Beliefs and Practice)

Students will learn about the main beliefs and practices of Buddhism, including worship, festivals, and teachings on ethics and suffering. They will explore how these teachings guide the daily lives of people who follow this tradition. This topic is a valuable introduction for those who go on to study at GCSE.

Topic 3 Values

Students will learn about how personal values, decisions and behaviour are shaped by family, culture, religion and life experiences. They will also explore important religious teachings about how we treat others, including concepts such as compassion, forgiveness, and justice. Students will look at examples of moral courage, such as people who risked their lives to help others during the Holocaust, despite facing great danger.

Year 9 (Making Connections and deepening understanding)

Topic 1 Crime and Punishment

Students will explore morality, law, and justice through different religious and ethical perspectives. They will learn about the causes of crime, the prison system, theories of punishment, and the debate around the death penalty. The unit will help them understand how various faiths respond to these important ethical and moral issues.

Topic 2 Ethics surrounding abortion and when life begins

This unit helps students explore the complex and sensitive topic of abortion by looking at ethical, legal, religious and non-religious views. They will also consider important philosophical questions, such as the beginning of life, rights, and personal choice, to understand why this issue is so challenging and debated.

Topic 3 The Big Debate

This unit helps students understand important ethical and philosophical issues by exploring different religious, non-religious, and philosophical views and perspectives. Topics include fame and wealth, drugs and alcohol, animal testing, life after death, war, refugees, and understanding ethical religious teachings such as ‘Who is my neighbour’?

KS4 (Years 10-11) GCSE Religious Studies (AQA)

Students study two exam components across the two years.

Component 1 (Paper 1) Study of Religion

Students will complete an in-depth study of the beliefs and practices of the religions of Christianity and Buddhism, including examining the life and teachings of their founders Jesus of Nazareth (Jesus Christ) and Siddhartha Gautama (the Buddha).

Component 2 (Paper 2) Thematic Studies

Students will study four ethical themes and will be able to explain, analyse and evaluate contrasting Christian (and Buddhist) views on these themes.

Year 10 (GCSE Year 1)

- Topic 1 Christian Beliefs
- Topic 2 Theme A: Religion, Relationships and Families
- Topic 3 Christian Practices
- Topic 4 Theme B: Religion and Life

Year 11 (GCSE Year 2)

- Topic 1 Buddhist Beliefs
- Topic 2 Theme D: Religion, Crime and Punishment
- Topic 3 Buddhist Beliefs
- Topic 4 Theme E: Religion, Crime and Punishment

KS5 (Years 12-13) A Level Religious Studies (Eduqas/WJEC)

Students study three exam components across the two years

Component 1: Study of Religion (Judaism)

- Theme 1 Religious figures and sacred texts
- Theme 2 Religious concepts and religious life
- Theme 3 Significant social and historical developments
- Theme 4 Religious practices that shape identity

Component 2: Philosophy

- Theme 1 Arguments for the existence of God
- Theme 2 Arguments against the existence of God
- Theme 3 Religious Experience
- Theme 4 Religious Language

Component 3: Ethics

- Theme 1 Ethical Thought
- Theme 2 Teleological ethics
- Theme 3 Deontological ethics
- Theme 4 Free Will and Determinism