

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Statement of Intent

At KS4 RS is offered as an option at GCSE with students following the AQA A 1-9 paper. This program of study focuses on both Christian and Muslim beliefs and ethical themes such as crime, conflict, relationships and environmental issues. The subject lends itself to discussion and debate around controversial topics and allows students to develop a deeper understanding of the wider context of society.

The aim is to develop students' knowledge and understanding of religious and non-religious beliefs, (such as atheism and humanism), and to develop their knowledge and understanding of teachings and sources of wisdom and authority through the reading of key religious texts and scriptures. They should also develop their ability to construct well-argued, well-informed, balanced and structured written arguments, demonstrating their depth and breadth of understanding of the subject. This should enable them to reflect on and develop their own values, beliefs and attitudes to contribute to their preparation for adult life in a diverse, multi-faith society and global community.

Key Stage 4 Curriculum

The students will complete the AQA Specification A 1-9 Religious Studies qualification, which is broken down into 2 assessments of 1 hour 45 minutes long. Component 1 is focused on the religious practices and beliefs of both Christianity and Islam (50% of total marks). Component 2 is broken down into four ethical themes; families & relationships, crime & punishment, peace & conflict, religion & life (50% of total marks).

Extended Learning

What we offer to extend the learning of our students

GCSE RS students are involved in promoting key religious dates across the school through assemblies, festivals and other initiatives. Ethical themes are linked to our extra-curricular offerings of an LGBTIA+ club with support available should they wish for other social action groups to be set up. There are also many school activities in line with the theme of community which comes through in the topic, for example our whole school food donation drive, charities attached to each House and other fundraising activities. We may also have opportunities to visit places of worship and to invite faith leaders in for talks and discussions.

What can parents do to support extended learning in this subject

To support the subject a parent could check their child's spelling of new religious terms as students will achieve extra marks in their exam for correct SPAG. It would also be useful to discuss religious and ethical questions e.g., meaning of atheism and agnosticism, whether religion causes peace or conflict, misconceptions around religion and radicalisation. Parents could encourage students to follow BBC News, news websites and watch documentaries related to religious & ethical themes e.g., Louis Theroux on Scientology. It would be particularly supportive if children could be taken to visit religious places of worship – temples, mosques, churches, or visit the religion section of the V&A museum.