

Statement of Intent

Throughout KS3, R.E & Ethics is taught within students' Learning for Life lessons. A wide variety of topics are studied as part of the curriculum with opportunities for pupils to express and justify their own personal beliefs in a safe, supported and structured environment. At KS4 R.E is offered as an option at GCSE with students following the AQA A 1-9 paper. This programme 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. Those students who do not want to take R.E as a GCSE choice will explore ethical themes through PSHE in tutor times, focusing on diversity and discrimination.

Key Stage 3 Curriculum

Religious Education at Key Stage 3 is run through the Learning for Life Programme. Both year 7 and year 8 will have a half term focused on related topics, with lessons consisting of 1 hour a week. They will be given one homework project for the half term that should take around 2 hours to complete.

Key Stage 4 Curriculum

The students will complete the AQA Specification A 1-9 Religious Studies qualification, which is broken down into two 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). During the course the students will attend 3 hours of lessons per week and will be expected to complete 45 minutes of homework per week.

Extended Learning

What we offer to extend the learning of our students

GCSE R.S students are involved in promoting key religious dates across the school through assemblies, festivals and other initiatives. Ethical themes are closely linked to our extra-curricular offerings of both an Equality club and Social Action club. 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 and Merton's Windrush Legacy Project.

What parents can 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. the meaning of atheism and agnosticism, whether religion causes peace or conflict, misconceptions around religion and radicalisation etc. Parents could encourage students to follow BBC News, news websites and watch documentaries related to religious and 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.