

Welcome to the Religious Studies Department

Subject Leader: Mrs H Millan

Teachers: Mrs J Coleman, Miss J Saunders

Subject Overview

Key Stage 3: Years 7 and 8

At Key Stage 3 students are encouraged to develop a wider understanding of world religions particularly their beliefs and practices. A main emphasis is on how beliefs might affect the way a person acts within society and what can be learnt from this. Students are taught to question the world around them and develop their own opinions on topics.

Key Stage 4: Years 9 - 11

Years 9, 10 and 11 follow a 'core' Religious Studies course. This course allows students to study philosophy and morality by challenging them to consider their own attitudes towards philosophical and moral situations.

Post 16

Students study the Edexcel specification and follow three main modules: Philosophy of Religion, Ethics and Religion and a complex study of Buddhism. These modules allow students to consider the interaction between religion and philosophy, how religion affects and is affected by UK society today as well as encouraging them to delve into the main beliefs and practices of the complicated religion that is Buddhism.

Teaching Aims and Objectives

Within Religious Studies we aim to develop the following:

- To provoke challenging questions about meaning and purpose in life, beliefs about God, ultimate reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human;
- To learn about religion, and learn from religion, in order to develop a knowledge and understanding of world views in local, national and international contexts;
- To promote tolerance, respect and understanding of different faith and belief systems;
- To develop ideas, values and identities;
- To gain and deploy the skills needed to understand, interpret and evaluate texts, sources of wisdom and authority and other evidence;
- To listen respectfully and respond to the ideas of others;
- To question and challenge ideas and evaluate personal beliefs and the beliefs of others;
- To appreciate diversity between and within faiths;
- To understand the importance and relevance of being part of a community;
- To consider how religion, belief and faith affects those living in Modern Britain today through their beliefs and actions and
- To develop an awareness and understanding of the role that spirituality plays in the lives of people of all faiths, belief systems and backgrounds.

Course Information

Key Stage 3

Year 7 and Year 7

- Year 8:
- The Island
 - Festivals – particular focus on Diwali and Christmas
 - Authority – particular focus on Islam
 - Authority – leadership in Christianity
 - Spirited Arts

Year 8

- Life Journeys
- Diversity

Key Stage 4

- Year 9:
- Suffering
 - Conflict
 - Philosophy of Religion

- Year 10:
- Where does religion fit in to medical ethics?
 - Where does religion fit in to crime and punishment?

- Year 11:
- New Religious Movements
 - Saving the Planet

Post 16

- Year 12:
- Philosophy of Religion
 - Ethics and Religion
 - World Religion: Buddhism

- Year 13:
- Philosophy of Religion
 - Ethics and Religion
 - World Religion: Buddhism

Homework Expectations (Including ICT resources and websites)

Students in Key Stage 3 are set homework every other week. Students will be expected to do research relevant to the topics being studied.

Key Stage 4 students are set homework once a week to meet the demands of the course. There may be occasions when more homework is necessary.

A Level students are expected to support their study with extra research and wider reading. This is in addition to essays set.

The following websites can be very helpful when researching homework:

www.rsrevision.com

www.request.org.uk

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

Students may attend Humanities Club once a week.

In the past students have extended their learning through visits to Oxford places of worship including Mosques, Synagogues and Churches from different Christian denominations.

A level students have visited Buddhist temples and taken part in practical sessions involving meditation. A level students may also attend a proposed trip to Rome in February 2017.

Marking and Assessment

Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4

Contact marking is intended to check that all work has been completed with appropriate effort by the students. Religious Studies teachers do not formally grade this work, but will offer encouragement and may point out spelling and grammatical errors or give directions to improve the presentation of the notes.

Formative assessment is intended to give specific advice to each individual student. During Key Stage 3, this form of marking is usually part of the extended writing process. When students write an extended task, they are given a marking sheet that gives advice on how they should mark their own work. In addition, this work is then marked by the teacher who gives specific advice on how to improve it.

Sixth Form

A Level students' work is marked using the exam criteria and specific feedback for improvement is given. Students are encouraged to engage in dialogic marking to show they have learnt from the targets set by the teachers.

Examinations

GCSE

There is no GCSE course running for the year beginning September 2016.

In 2017 we hope to run the new Edexcel GCSE specification to students.

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/religious-studies-2016.html>

A level

Students will be following the Edexcel course which will be examined at the end of their two year course with three exams each lasting two hours and each worth 33% of the final grade. Examinations will take the form of extended writing responses. There is no coursework for this A level.

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/religious-studies-2016.html>