

Kingsmead School

Religious Studies

The Religious Studies department are part of the Open faculty area and have grown in stature over the last 5 years, gaining our best ever results for the GCSE last year. There is a 100% pass rate currently in KS4 and 5.  The department aims to focus on all students, respecting their different approaches to learning. Students are supported and motivated to achieve their full potential. Teaching concentrates on different approaches and incorporate different activities to ensure all learning styles are catered for.  Students ensure that they take pride in their work and maximise their learning, by working with others. Our lessons are structured with the students being our priority and allowing them to achieve beyond expectations.

As a department we aim to:

* Encourage and help all individuals to reach their full potential and feel proud in their achievements.
* Encouraging independent learning, preparing students for assignments and equip them with personal transferable skills, for later life.
* Consistently monitor students’ progress to ensure they are remaining on target to achieve their full potential.
* Ensure the classroom environment is conducive to learning and that students feel safe and secure within that environment.
* Ensure all pupils have the opportunity to visit a place of worship during their time at Kingsmead
* Develop and disseminate good practice through regular departmental meetings and Learning Walks. Supporting each other and aiming to remove variance across the department area.
* Strengthen the links with the MAT and bring in guest speakers from the workplace to link learning to the wider world and opportunities on offer.

Students should be:

* Engaged in learning, through quality teaching and being taught by specialist teachers.
* Achieving their potential, through monitoring, and appropriate feedback.
* Learning within a safe and healthy environment.
* Respecting the rights, culture and beliefs of others.
* Taught to understand the importance of the skills they obtain and how these contribute to lifelong learning.

**The Curriculum**

The curriculum is taught across Key stages 3, 4 and 5. All pupils study Religious Studies from Years 7 – 9. We currently have one option group in Years 10, 11 and 12.

**Key Stage 3**

We teach all religions in depth over the three years of study and also look at worldviews, philosophy and ethics. In each topic on religion we include topical lessons such as, culture, religion in the media, music etc. Pupil feedback on our curriculum is positive and the majority of pupils say they enjoy Religious Studies and what they study. In each topic on religion, we look at the key beliefs and practices of that religion and make links between the religions. In the Ethics and Philosophy topics we look at moral issues, the big questions of life and how the religious beliefs link into these. The Alternative Religions topic is a favourite among pupils where we study the basics of other worldviews such as, Humanism, Taoism, Scientology etc…

Year 7:

Topic 1: Judaism

Topic 2: Christianity

Topic 3: Islam

Year 8:

Topic 1: Hinduism

Topic 2: Sikhism

Topic 3: Buddhism

Year 9:

Topic 1: Ethics

Topic 2: Alternative Religions

Topic 3: Philosophy

**Key Stage 4**

We follow the AQA A Specification and study Christianity with Judaism or Buddhism. We also teach four themes for this GCSE including: Religion and Relationships, Religion and Life, Religion, Peace and Conflict, and Religion, Crime and Punishment.

Year 10:

Topic 1: Crime and Punishment

Topic 2: Christian Beliefs

Topic 3: Peace and Conflict

Topic 4: Christian Practices

Topic 5: Religion and Life

Year 11:

Topic 1: Buddhist/Jewish Beliefs

Topic 2: Religion and Relationships

Topic 3: Buddhist/Jewish Practices

Topic 4: Revision

**Key Stage 5**

We currently study OCR Religious Studies A Level with Christianity as the Religion of choice. The course is split into three parts: Philosophy, Ethics and Developments in Christian Thought.

Philosophy:

* Ancient philosophical influences
* The nature of the soul, mind and body
* Arguments about the existence or non-existence of God
* The nature and impact of religious experience
* The challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil
* Ideas about the nature of God
* Issues in religious language

Ethics:

* Normative ethical theories
* The application of ethical theory to two
* Contemporary issues of importance
* Ethical language and thought
* Debates surrounding the significant idea of
* Conscience
* Sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought
* Developments in religious beliefs

Developments in Christian Thought:

* Religious beliefs, values and teachings, their
* Interconnections and how they vary historically and in the contemporary world
* Sources of religious wisdom and authority
* Practices which shape and express religious
* Identity, and how these vary within a tradition
* Significant social and historical developments in
* Theology and religious thought
* Key themes related to the relationship between
* Religion and society