



RELIGIOUS STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Position – Teacher of Religious Studies

This post has arisen due to the promotion of the existing post holder. We are looking for someone with the drive and enthusiasm to help develop and build upon the success of an established department.

General Information

All students undertake the Religious Studies GCSE, and thus the department occupies an important place in the school. The department consists of the Head of Department, one full time and one part time teacher of Religious Studies. The Department consists of two dedicated classrooms with a dedicated work room / office. Each classroom has an interactive whiteboard, projector, and DVD player. Classes are regularly booked into the large ICT rooms to carry out research and facilitate independent learning.

The Curriculum

Curriculum Overview

The school is moving to a two-week timetable from September 2023. The school day will be divided into 5 one-hour periods (25 period week). Curriculum allocation for Religious Studies based on a two-week timetable

- At KS3 Year 7 will have 3 one-hour periods and Years 8 and 9 will have 2 one-hour periods. This is in line with other 'Foundation subjects'. At KS3 classes are taught as tutor groups.
- At KS4 Religious Studies is allocated 3 hours per fortnight.
- A Level subjects are allocated 9 one-hour periods. Currently there is one group of Religious Studies in both Years 12 and 13.

At **Key Stage 3** the department follows the Wiltshire Agreed Syllabus (2016) . We focus on Buddhism and Christianity with aspects of Judaism, Hinduism, Islam, and Humanism also explored.

In Year 7

Pupils explore Belief and Belonging, which includes:

- Beliefs and Concepts (Where does religion come from? What is faith? What is religion? Who or what is God?)
- The life of Jesus
- The Holy Spirit in Christianity
- An introduction to Buddhism
- Initiation and commitment within religion

In Year 8

Pupils explore Religion in practice, which includes:

- The concept of miracles
- Ethics and values (How do we know right from wrong?)
- The characteristics and importance of human relationships
- An examination of different types of prejudice
- Buddhism in practice

In Year 9

Pupils explore Big Questions, which includes:

- Attitudes towards suffering and death and ideas about life after death
- An examination of religious, non-religious and philosophical theories for the existence of God
- The emergence of Islam in Saudi Arabia as an introduction to GCSE as well as completing the Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice Module for Component 2 of the course.

At **Key Stage 4**, the AQA Specification is currently followed. All students have the opportunity to take GCSE RS. RS is taught on less time than other GCSE subjects, on average 1.5 hours per week. In Year 10 the focus will be on Part 1 of the course. The study of TWO religions (Christianity and Islam) with a focus on TWO topics from each religion: Beliefs, Teachings and Practices (Worth 50% of the qualification)

In Year 11 the focus will be on Part 2 of the course looking at Religion, peace and conflict; Religion, crime and punishment; Religion, human rights and social justice and Religion and life.

Part 2: The study of FOUR themes from philosophy and ethics in the modern world (Worth 50% of the qualification)

Key Stage Five

At A level the department follows the Religious Studies, (with a focus on philosophy, ethics and Christianity) AQA specification and although a grade 6 at GCSE is desirable, students are accepted onto this course without having studied Religious Studies to GCSE 6, if they have attained a grade 6 in English. There is currently one teaching group in Year 12 and one group in Year 13. Students study Component 1

- Section A: Philosophy of Religion
- Section B: Ethics

Component 2

- Section A: Study of Christianity
- Section B: The dialogue between philosophy of religion and religion
- Section C: The dialogue between ethical studies and religion.

Enrichment opportunities

In recent years, the department has organised a number of enrichment opportunities including:

- Visits to Salisbury Cathedral
- GCSE visit to Southampton Mosque
- Conferences e.g. Academy Conference at Wells Cathedral School, Somerset and conferences in London
- Visiting speakers at SWGS

In addition, in October 2023, there is a Philosophy trip to Rome and Sorrento, visiting numerous locations in Rome and Sorrento of cultural, historical, archaeological and religious significance.

