

Religious Studies

Introduction

Religious Studies is integral to the ethos of our School. It is very important in relation to the character of Bishop Wand as a Church School and it is an essential part of the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental, and physical education of our students. Religious Studies offers a range of opportunities within and outside the classroom which encourage students to stretch their imagination, develop their confidence as they master transferable life skills like critical thinking.

Curriculum Information: Key Stage 3

The units of study for Key Stage 3 are outlined below:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Introduction to Religious Studies and the Church	Diversity	Foundation to GCSE Church History
The Old Testament	Hinduism	Judaism : Beliefs
Jesus' Teachings	Buddhism	Judaism : teachings
Jesus' Miracles	Islam	
Holy Week	Sikhism	Judaism : Practices
Belief	The World and I	

These topics are studied through a range of activities from group research about Jewish festivals to a visit from the Gideons to introduce the Bible. Core skills are developed, such as becoming 'self-managers' and 'effective participators'.

Curriculum Information: Key Stage 4

During years 10 and 11 Religious Studies remains a compulsory subject with students taking a full GCSE from the AQA Exam Board.

Students study the beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity and Judaism. They examine the influence of the beliefs, teachings and practices studied on individuals, communities and societies.

Key beliefs in Christianity include: The nature of God; Beliefs about the afterlife and their importance; resurrection and life after death; judgement, heaven and hell. Students examine Jesus Christ and salvation, studying: the incarnation and Jesus as the Son of God, his crucifixion, resurrection and ascension. Other units include Worship and festivals and the role of the church in the local and worldwide community.

Key beliefs in Judaism include: God as Creator, Law-Giver and Judge; The importance of the sanctity of human life, including the concept of 'saving a life' and the nature and role of the Messiah. Students will examine the Promised Land and the Covenant with Abraham. Other unit include the role of Moses and the Ten Commandments; The synagogue, worship, Family life and festivals.

Students also undertake thematic studies. Students study religious teachings about the issues raised as well as different religious and non-religious beliefs about, and attitudes to, those issues found in contemporary British society. This section of the specification is intended to provide an opportunity for the study of:

Relationships and families: Sex, marriage and divorce; Families and gender equality

Religion and life: The origins and value of the universe; the origins and value of human life

Religion, peace and conflict: Religion, violence, terrorism and war; Religion and belief in 21st century conflict

Religion, crime and punishment: Religion, crime and the causes of crime; Religion and punishment; Human rights; Wealth and poverty

Curriculum Information: Key Stage 5

The Religious Studies A-Level is a well-established course in the Sixth Form. It comprises of Philosophy of Religion and Religious Ethics and is undertaken from the OCR Exam Board.

The course has proved to be very popular, with some students choosing to further their studies in the subject at university. It comprises of three units: Philosophy of religion; Religion and ethics; and Developments in religious thought.



Year 8 visit to a Synagogue



A student's project entitled Abraham's time capsule

“Religious Studies makes a good contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students.” Section 48 report