
TEACHER OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

The Post

We are looking for a well-qualified, enthusiastic and inspiring teacher of Religious Studies. The post, which is suitable for an NQT or an experienced teacher, provides an excellent opportunity to develop in a dynamic and innovative department across KS3 and 4. A level could be available for a suitable experienced candidate. Blue Coat is an outstanding 11-18 comprehensive and a designated National Teaching School Hub, committed to the professional development of all our staff.

The Department

Religious Studies, which is part of the core curriculum, is a department of 8 specialists. All students study GCSE, taking the AQA Specification A; students will study Christianity and Islam, along with 4 themes. The department has a record of high achievement (see below).

GCSE	2021		2020		2019		2018	
	Blue Coat	National	Blue Coat	National	Blue Coat	National	Blue Coat	National
% 9-7	51%	39%	54%	35%	42%	31%	60%	30%
% 9-4	88%	81%	90%	81%	82%	72%	91%	72%

Numbers at A-level are good, we currently have 50 students studying RS at Key Stage 5; but there is still potential here to grow. Students study Christianity, Philosophy and Ethics (Eduqas). As a Church of England school, we see it as part of our responsibility to grow the RS and Theology graduates and teachers of the future.

We follow the Diocesan guidelines for Religious Studies. Our aim is to affirm, encourage, and challenge students on their own spiritual journey. Our lessons are grounded in Christianity, and students also explore other global religions and worldviews throughout the first three years. The Key Stage 3 curriculum is centred on 'big questions'. Such as 'What is a worldview and what is mine?', 'Where was God in the Holocaust?', and 'Can we experience God?'

Students study major religious festivals and learn about the lives of people who, through their faith, have made a positive impact on society. Students have the opportunity to participate in educational visits to places of worship, and to learn from visitors within the classroom. Religious Studies provokes challenging questions about the meaning and purpose of life, and beliefs about God, and students are encouraged to be inquisitive and consider these big questions.

Key Stage 3 pupils are assessed using colour banded criteria written by the department which ensure challenge, and preparation for GCSE examination requirements. Students' literacy is also

assessed through 'Power Writes'. This is the application of learning to an extended piece of writing considering the use of key literary techniques as well as RS knowledge and skills.

SIAMS inspections in December 2016, December 2011 and February 2008 judged the effectiveness and leadership of Religious Studies to be outstanding. The department was also awarded the RE Quality Mark Gold Award (again) in 2020.

The school has a (lay) chaplain who leads on worship and spirituality; teachers of RS are in a position to contribute powerfully to the development of the school's strong Christian ethos, and to how well we welcome and respect members of other faiths in our school and wider community.

The department has a suite of classrooms where all teachers can collaborate and there is shared office space for the department. The department is resourced to a high standard, each classroom is equipped with an interactive ProWise board, visualiser and there is a class set of tablets which can be used to enhance learning. There is a wide collection of extension reading material and artefacts for each of the major world religions. Schemes of work for all Key Stages are up to date and detailed, reflecting the recent OFSTED guidance for Religious Studies. The department have all contributed to and have provided lesson-by-lesson guidance for the whole department including a variety of assessment and challenge opportunities. Teaching and learning in the department is creative and engaging; there are resources available which are used to aid this level of creativity in lessons. The RS team work together to share the planning of lessons, and ideas for outstanding lessons.

RS is a core subject at Blue Coat. It is one of the highest performing departments across the school and pupil voice consistently shows that it is one of their favourite subjects. This post is a fantastic opportunity for someone who is passionate about their subject, to work in a school that truly values RS and the development of pedagogy.
