



KING EDWARD VI HANDSWORTH SCHOOL

Religious Studies Department

Staffing

Dr. E. Clewlow	Head of Department
Mrs B. Nock	Teacher of Religious Studies
Mrs A. McMullen	Teacher of Religious Studies (also Teacher of History)
Miss C. Berry	Teacher of Religious Studies (also Co-Head)

Religious Studies is taught as a discrete subject from Key Stage 3 through to A Level.

Examinations

Students follow the AQA specification Route A for the GCSE qualification in Religious Studies and the WJEC/Eduqas Religious Studies A level course.

Please see details below.

Examination Results

Religious Studies is optional at GCSE level and we have a healthy uptake, with over half the year group opting to study this subject. Students who do not opt to study this subject at GCSE level are required to participate in one General RS day per term.

Students have achieved excellent examination results in Religious Studies, with over 90% of the year group consistently attaining grades 7-9 at GCSE level. In 2017, the cohort achieved 100% A* and A grades at GCSE. The vast majority of A level students are awarded A*-B grades at A level, with some students securing places at Oxbridge to study Theology and Religion or PPE.

Trips and Enrichment

Trips and enrichment opportunities are seen as an essential part of our curriculum and the successful candidate would be expected to contribute to the running of these.

Key Stage 3

In Year 8, the students have visited a variety of local places of worship as part of their 'Sacred Space' project.

Key Stage 4

As part of the Year 10 General RS day on the Holocaust, students have had the opportunity to listen to first-hand accounts from a survivor of Auschwitz who has visited the school, and from a survivor of Theresienstadt who joined us for a virtual discussion. Year 11 students have also taken part in a 'Philosopher's Stone' debating event with students from KEVI Aston and Handsworth Grammar School. This year, we welcomed Dr Nikk Effingham from the University of Birmingham who delivered the keynote speech for this event.

Timetable

We operate a fortnightly timetable and lessons are 50 minutes long. At KS3 we have three lessons a fortnight, we have five at KS4 and eleven at KS5.

Accommodation

Most of the department's lessons at all key stages are taught in designated RS classrooms. Teaching rooms are well equipped with projectors and interactive whiteboards. We have a fantastic range of textbooks for all key stages, including an extensive collection of texts to enable the sixth form to engage in wider reading. As well as facilities in the RS department, we also have access to five bookable ICT suites.

Courses Taught

KS3

During Key Stage 3, pupils learn about the key beliefs and foundations of the Abrahamic and Dharmic religions, before moving on to look at philosophical and ethical studies in Year 9.

Year 7:

Nature of God
Why believe or disbelieve in God?
Religious Leaders
Judaism
Creation Myths
Belief into Action
Celebrating and Remembering

Year 8:

Pilgrimage
Justice
The Environment/Animal Rights
Buddhism
Why is the Incarnation important to Christians?
Prayer
Sacred Space

Year 9:

Human Relationships
The Puzzle of God
Resurrection
Life After Death
Good and Evil
Ethics

GCSE Religious Studies

Paper 1: Beliefs and Practices
Christian Beliefs and Practices
Hindu Beliefs and Practices
Paper 2: Thematic Studies
Theme A: Relationships and Families
Theme B: Religion and Life
Theme D: Religion, Peace and Conflict
Theme F: Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice

General RS Days:

Year 10:

Term 1 – Religion and Society

Term 2 – Medical Ethics

Term 3 – The Holocaust and the Problem of Evil

Year 11:

Term 1 – Justice

Term 2 – Philosophy of Happiness

A Level Religious Studies

Component 1 – Study of a World Religion (Christianity)

Component 2 – Philosophy

Component 3 - Ethics

Further Information

As a department, our vision is:

- To equip the students with sound understanding of both the Abrahamic and Dharmic religions, through the application of the 'lenses' of Theology, Philosophy and Social Sciences.
- To develop students' ability to think critically about religious issues and to relish the challenge of academically rigorous study.
- To develop students' religious literacy and to equip them for life in contemporary society

E. Clewlow

Head of Religious Studies

January 2022