

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES

To provide a stimulating, varied and enriching learning environment to prepare students for life in a culturally diverse, modern global world. RS provides students with the opportunity to debate and discuss; to question and to articulate their views verbally as well as developing their extended writing skills. Students should be encouraged to develop thorough research skills; weigh up evidence; develop logical chains of reasoning and evaluate...all within the use of specific religious terminology.

### KS3

Year 7: Extends and deepens knowledge and key beliefs of 4 main religions and worldviews by looking at core elements of faith; religious views on how we got here through creation stories and religious practices that enhance a sense of belonging and community.

Year 8: emphasis on the role and importance of Holy Books and specific teachings. We look at the role of Holy Books in important ceremonies such as Naming ceremony and weddings. We develop an understanding of the rules and laws that come from Holy books and the effect they have on the day to day lives of religious believers. We also look at community worship and how religious belief is put into practice eg: The Gurdwara and the Langar. We end the year looking at concepts of Justice around the world with specific emphasis on El Salvador through the death of Maria Gomez, a case study of Desmond Tutu and the role that Jesus plays in bringing justice to the world.

Year 9: Extends and deepens knowledge of beliefs and practices taught in Yr 7 and 8. We concentrate on a number of themes such as the role and importance of community worship within Christianity by looking closely at the concepts of sacrifice, forgiveness and atonement within Christianity; religious attitudes to Racism and equality and how people of faith cope with challenges to their beliefs about God through events such as the Holocaust. We end the year with a study of Divali to highlight the battle between Good and Evil and the role and importance of festivals for religious communities.

## **Year 10 and 11 Core Non GCSE RL**

In KS4 we look at a number of modern moral, social and ethical issues that can affect our lives. Topics covered range from causes of crime to causes of war to debate around Abortion and Euthanasia. Students are encouraged to express their opinions in an appropriate manner; to listen and respect those who differ from them and to evaluate and develop arguments for and against.

## **RS GCSE**

The rationale behind the AQA course is to challenge students with questions about belief, values, purpose of religion and different types of truth. This will help students develop their own attitudes to a range of ethical and moral dilemmas together with an understanding of how religious followers put their beliefs into practice. This also allow students to explore how the nature of religion impacts on the culture of the UK.

Skills needed to complete the course should be embedded in KS3. These will include interpretative skills; comprehension skills; use and purpose of symbolism; disagreement amongst religions.

The course will enhance student's knowledge of both religious and non-religious attitudes to moral and ethical issues. Build on their ability to construct informed and balanced arguments within a structured written framework. It also promotes self-evaluation of a pupil's beliefs and moral boundaries.

Topics covered are Christian beliefs and practices; Judaism beliefs and practices; Relationships; Crime and Punishment; Religion and Life; War, Peace and Conflict.

## **CAREERS AND EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS.**

RS allows students to develop their empathy skills and value diversity. Learning about different religions and religious practices and how they can influence individuals and communities will help students connect with and relate to people from different backgrounds.

There are many perspectives of religion and in some cases alternative viewpoints within religion. Students are taught to construct informed and reasoned arguments to support their point of view together with an understanding of opposite or contrasting views. This will help in careers were it is essential to communicate.