

Curriculum Overview: Religious Studies

Year group: 8

What your child will learn each half term

This overview shows the key topics, skills, and knowledge your child will be learning in Religious Studies during Y8. It helps families understand what's being taught, how it builds on previous learning, and how you can support your child at home.

- **What we are learning:** The topic or focus for the half term.
- **Key knowledge & skills:** What students should understand and be able to do.
- **How we assess learning:** knowledge checks, practical tasks, written responses and formal assessments.
- **Key words to know:** Vocabulary students will learn and use.

Half term	What we are learning	Key knowledge and Key skills	How we will assess learning in this unit	Homework	Key vocabulary for this unit
HT 1 <i>What does it mean to be the chosen people?</i>	Why Jews believe they are the chosen people and how their religious practices reflect this belief.	Key Knowledge: • Key words that will be used across the RS course. • How the covenants with Abraham and Moses establish the Jews as God's chosen people. • How Jews show their Jewish identity through their beliefs and practices including clothing, worship, dietary laws and the key moral principles. Key Skills: • How to convey an argument through writing. • Critical thinking: being able to give both sides of an argument and form an opinion.	Baseline assessment: Knowledge quiz to be completed at the start and end of the unit. Knowledge checks each lesson. A series of short-written tasks. Summative assessment, including an extended writing task.	Activities in homework booklet: Knowledge Quiz Reading comprehension: The covenant with Abraham Revision Knowledge Quiz	Covenant Abraham Moses Synagogue Tallit Tefillin Kosher Trefah Justice

		- Information reduction - Analysis Skills - Evaluation Skills - Debating - Self-awareness: reflecting on learning and own worldview.			
HT 2 <i>Who was Jesus?</i>	Who Jesus was; the different roles of Jesus throughout his life.	Key Knowledge: - Key words that will be used across the RS course. - How Jesus had different roles throughout his life, and the impact of these on Christians today. Key Skills: - Creative writing skills - Information reduction - Analysis - Application - Evaluation - Critical thinking skills: being able to give both sides of an argument and form an opinion. - Self-awareness: reflecting on learning and own worldview.	Baseline assessment: Knowledge quiz to be completed at the start and end of the unit. Knowledge checks each lesson. A series of short-written tasks. Summative assessment, including an extended writing task.	Activities in homework booklet: Knowledge Quiz Miracles Research Revision Knowledge Quiz	Incarnation Miracle Fundamentalist Liberal Parable Messiah Martyr Crucifixion Saviour Resurrection
HT 3	How the existence of suffering may	Key Knowledge: - Key words that will be used across the RS	Baseline assessment: Knowledge quiz to be	Activities in homework	Moral Evil Natural Evil

Why might the existence of suffering be a problem for theists?	challenge religious beliefs and the religious responses to suffering.	course. - The Christian, Muslim and Hindu beliefs and responses to evil and suffering. - The Humanist beliefs and responses to evil and suffering. Key Skills: - Extended writing skills - Reading comprehension - Information reduction - Application skills; applying teachings to form an argument. - Critical thinking skills: being able to give both sides of an argument and form an opinion. - Self-awareness: reflecting on learning and own worldview.	completed at the start and end of the unit. Knowledge checks each lesson. A series of short-written tasks. Summative assessment, including an extended writing task.	booklet: Knowledge Quiz Revision Knowledge Quiz Card Sort: How do you judge evil? Research: Charity	Omnipotent Benevolent Just Free Will Karma Samsara Maslow's Hierarchy of needs
HT 4 What is the purpose of life?	How Hindus understand the purpose of life through their religious practices.	Key Knowledge: - Key words that will be used across the RS course. - The different ways Hindu's can understand the purpose of life, such as through dharma, Krishna, Hanuman and yoga. Key Skills: - Reading comprehension - Information reduction	Baseline assessment: Knowledge quiz to be completed at the start and end of the unit. Knowledge checks each lesson. A series of short-written tasks. Summative assessment, including an extended writing task.	Activities in homework booklet: Knowledge Quiz Revision Knowledge Quiz	Dharma Go Dharmic Krishna Krishna Janmashtami Yoga Karma Yoga Juana Yoga Ashtanga/Raja Yoga Bhakti Yoga

		• Application skills • Critical thinking skills: being able to give both sides of an argument and form an opinion. • Self-awareness: reflecting on learning and own worldview.			
HT 5 <i>How do the Qur'an and Hadith guide a Muslim?</i>	The different ways the Qur'an and Hadith can be interpreted by Muslims as sources of guidance.	Key Knowledge: • Key words that will be used across the RS course. • Why the Qur'an and Hadith are followed by Muslims today. • How Muslims follow the guidance of the Qur'an and Hadith and contribute to society. Key Skills: • Creative writing skills • Reading comprehension • Information reduction • Application skills • Critical thinking skills: being able to give both sides of an argument and form an opinion. Self-awareness: reflecting on learning and own worldview.	Baseline assessment: Knowledge quiz to be completed at the start and end of the unit. Knowledge checks each lesson. A series of short-written tasks. Summative assessment, including an extended writing task.	Activities in homework booklet: Knowledge Quiz Reading Comprehension: The Qur'an Revision Knowledge Quiz	Sunni Shi'a Qur'an Hadith Prophet Muhammad Angel Jibril Food Bank Charity Convert
HT6 <i>How might faith inspire</i>	How people of different religious worldviews have been inspired by their faith.	Key Knowledge: • How Oscar Romero, Mother Teresa, Gandhi, Rosa Parks, Mo Salah and Stormzy have been inspired by their religious faith.	Baseline assessment: Knowledge quiz to be completed at the start and end of the unit.	Activities in homework booklet: Reading	El Salvador Catholic Poverty Salt March Bus Boycott

<i>people?</i>		Key Skills: • Reading comprehension • Information reduction • Application skills • Critical thinking skills: being able to give both sides of an argument and form an opinion. • Self-awareness: reflecting on learning and own worldview.	Knowledge checks each lesson. A series of short-written tasks. Summative assessment, including an extended writing task.	Comprehension: On the care of our common home Analysis: When Greta Met the Pope	Segregation Zakah Grace
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