

# Religious Education (RE)



WEST HILL  
SCHOOL

Welcome to RE at West Hill. When you start at West Hill you will have one lesson of RE a week, and it will probably be very different to your RE lessons at primary school. In years 7,8 and 9 we will learn about different religions and also what they (and you) may think about some big questions. For example: Is it ever right to go to war? Is there a life after death? Should animals have rights? Why do some people say God does/does not exist?

RE at West Hill is not about us trying to make you religious, or to question your own religious beliefs if you do have them. RE at West Hill is about you learning to understand the different beliefs of others and what religious and non-religious people may say about the 'big questions' we all have so that we can be respectful and understanding of others.

## Task 1: What do you believe?

We are definitely interested in your beliefs and opinion in RE. So to start off it would be good for you to think about and share some things that you believe.

1) Do you believe there is a God?\*      yes                  no                  not sure

Circle your answer

Why do you think this? Explain in a few sentences

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\*If you would rather not say that's fine too. You can skip this question if you would like to keep this to yourself.

Optional sentence starters (in case you need help getting started)

I do believe in God because I am...

I do not believe in God because I don't think that...

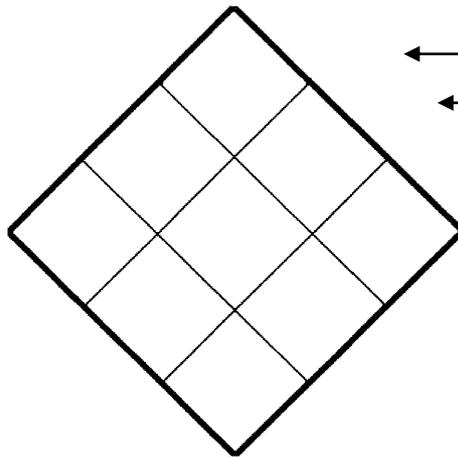
I am not sure whether God exists because...

2) Your opinion: do you think it is ever right to go to war?

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## Task 2: Why is RE important?



I most agree with

Below there  
to study  
**letters** in  
opinion on

are 9 reasons why it is important  
RE. In the diamond **put the**  
order of priority to show your  
why we study RE.

I least agree with

- A.** If we want to understand our world we have to understand the people in it.
- B.** RE allows us to become more tolerant, we learn to listen to others and consider different views.
- C.** RE allows me to explore important questions like 'why am I here?'
- D.** Three quarters of the world say they are religious, so religion is an important part of people's lives, we should try and understand it.
- E.** RE is all around us, everywhere we look, films, music, the news, our area. If we all took a greater interest in it, it might stop conflicts about it.
- F.** Lots of people fall out over religion, usually because they misunderstand each other, If we all learnt religion, there would be less misunderstandings.
- G.** It's the law to study RE, therefore its important!
- H.** RE is about moral issues like animal testing, hunting, the death penalty, and lots more. These are issues which affect us. RE gives us the opportunity to explore these ideas and make our own informed opinions.
- I.** Religious leaders like Jesus and Buddha were wise men. Their ideas can help us think about the way we treat people today.

Example: If you think that the best reason to study RE from the choices above is 'It's the law to study RE', then you would put the letter G at the top of the diamond. If you think the next best reason is 'Religious leaders like Jesus and Buddha were wise men', then you would put this in one of the boxes on the second row. In the end you should have all 9 letters in the boxes.

I put \_\_\_ at the top of my diamond because \_\_\_\_\_

I put \_\_\_ at the bottom of my diamond because \_\_\_\_\_