



Religious Studies

Our intent

GCSE Religious Studies is offered to develop our young people and their understanding of the world around them. We invite them to consider different beliefs and attitudes to religious and non-religious issues in contemporary British society. Students will develop religious literacy in diverse religious traditions of Great Britain- Christianity and Buddhism. At our core, we teach students the skills to decipher why people may have differing opinions, and how to respect this. Our thematic components are selected to prepare students for issues they might face in their own lives to help them develop empathy, and their own viewpoints.



Our 'why'

Our curriculum follows the AQA Religious Studies A specification. As required by the exam board, our students learn about Christian traditions, and our second religion is Buddhism. This allows students to compare and contrast a theistic religion with a dharmic religion, allowing for greater discussion in exam answers. We study the following themes: Relationships & Families, Religion & Life, Crime & Punishment, and Society & Human Rights. These themes will play a part in students' lives; studying them in the GCSE will allow students to connect with these ideas, aiding retention. The curriculum starts with Christian and Buddhist beliefs & practices to anchor knowledge and understanding of the religions which students can then apply to the themes.

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Our 'how'

Our curriculum is designed to meet the specification of AQA GCSE Religious Studies A. Units and lessons are sequenced to develop students' understanding and build on ideas and beliefs that underpin all the exam components. To aid memory and retention, retrieval is embedded into lessons for students to keep referring to core concepts. Students have the opportunity to engage with ideas through a variety of mediums. In lessons we offer a diverse variety of activities for students to approach things from different angles. At the core of our department we help students to learn through inclusivity and providing an environment where students feel valued.