



Curriculum Intent of RELIGIOUS STUDIES

September 2026

KS3 Religious Studies

Intent

To enable and develop students who:

- To build on the school community and provide an understanding of the diversity of cultures, beliefs and values.
- Can provoke challenging questions about the meaning and purpose of life, beliefs, the self, issues of right and wrong, and what it means to be human.
- Encourages pupils to explore their own beliefs (whether they are religious or non-religious), in the light of what they learn, as they examine issues of religious belief and faith and how these impact on personal, institutional and social ethics; and to express their responses.
- Enables pupils to build their sense of identity and belonging, which helps them flourish within their communities and as citizens in a diverse society.
- To develop respect for others, including people with different faiths and beliefs, and helps to challenge prejudice.

Skills

The core skills students will develop are:

- The ability to recognise their own experiences and feelings.
- To express their own values and beliefs.
- To raise important questions about religion and morality and express their own opinion.
- To raise, and suggest answers to, questions about religion and morality and express their own opinion.
- To use reasoning and examples to express insights into a range of religious and moral issues.
- The ability to articulate personal and critical responses to a range of important religious and moral issues, recognising the perspectives of others.
- To evaluate coherently key religious ideas and practices, fully justifying their own ideas and the perspectives of others in a balanced account.
- To evaluate religious ideas and practices resulting in well informed and highly reasoned insights. Provide balanced conclusions which are well substantiated.

Knowledge

The core knowledge students will develop is:

- To recognise and recall some main points of key religious beliefs and practices.
- Identify and retell, in detail, key religious beliefs and practices.
- Identify key features of religious beliefs and practices and begin to recognise the impact religion has on people's lives.
- Describe the key features of religious beliefs and practices and explain the impact religion has on people's lives.
- Describe and explain the similarities and differences between religions and lifestyles.
- Explain in depth the diversity within different religions and begin to analyse different beliefs and lifestyles.
- To critically analyse a range of religious beliefs and practices.
- Provide a consistent and detailed analysis of religious beliefs and practices, including various ways of interpreting religious teachings.

GCSE Religious Studies

Intent

To enable students to:

- To provoke challenging questions about the ultimate meaning of life, beliefs about God, the nature of reality and morality.
- To develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of Christianity, other principal world religions, religious traditions and world-views, which offer answers to ultimate questions.
- To encourage pupils to develop their sense of identity and belonging, in order to flourish within communities, as responsible citizens in society and global communities.
- To teach pupils to develop respect for others and their beliefs and helps to challenge prejudice.
- To prompt pupils to consider their responsibilities to themselves and to others, and to explore how they might contribute to their communities and to wider society encouraging empathy, generosity and compassion.

Skills

The core skills students will develop are:

- To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of religion and beliefs including:
- The ability to develop beliefs, practices and sources of authority.
- The ability to influence individuals, communities and societies
- The ability to know similarities and differences within and/or between religions and beliefs.
- To analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief, including their significance and influence.

Knowledge

The core knowledge students will develop is:

- Understanding key Christian terms and how it influences a Christian's daily life.
- Knowledge of different quotes from the Bible and analysing them in detail.
- Understanding key Islamic terms and how it influences a Muslim's daily life.
- Knowledge of different quotes from the Qur'an and analysing them in detail.
- Knowledge of different attitudes towards sex before marriage, and different types of family.
- Religious responses to the issues of sex, marriage, divorce and families.
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- Religious responses to the issues of sex, marriage, divorce and families.
- Knowledge of different beliefs on abortion such as being pro-life and pro-choice.
- Understanding different approaches to euthanasia and animal rights. Pupils must consider religious responses and apply them to these issues.
- Knowledge of different theories on creation – religious and non-religious.
- Developing an understanding of responsibility to look after the world and all living things.
- Having knowledge of different types of war, such as holy war and just war.
- Considering religious responses to war and use of nuclear weapons.
- Knowledge of different reasons why crime is committed and considering if punishment is effective.
- Religious responses to punishment and forgiveness.