



Curriculum Overview – *Religious Education*

Why is the study of *Religious Education* important?

Within Religious Education students are able to gain knowledge and understanding of Religion itself, reasons for having a belief, the traditions and practices that are undertaken by members of different religions around the world and also to understand and respect the impact religion has on an individual but also on communities and cultures.

Religious Education focuses on the ongoing development of the entire potential every individual has, encouraging them to develop in a holistic way and become the best version of themselves.

Religious Education encourages students to consider their views and opinions on the fundamental questions concerning the meaning and purpose of life as well as supporting their own spiritual life and development. Through the study of various religions pupils are able to understand reasons behind belief as well as gain a deeper understanding of morality and consider the range of views on ethical issues in society as well as beginning to form their own opinions.

What skills will you gain from *Religious Education*?

- Students will develop analytical and critical thinking skills.
- Students will be able to present a wide range of well-informed and reasonable arguments.
- Students will develop in confidence due to opportunities to take part in class discussions and debates.
- Students will be able to form and express their opinions on issues in society in a mature and respectful manner.
- Students will be able to use a wide range of vocabulary in both their writing and speech.
- Students develop an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to their studies.

"Our curriculum will be structured so that no pupil is prevented from pursuing a course or programme based on their gender, ability, ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation. Pupils with disabilities or special educational needs will, as far as is possible, be provided with reasonable adjustments to enable them to access an ambitious and relevant curriculum."



What knowledge will you gain from the study of *Religious Education*?

Within the curriculum students will gain a deep knowledge of the following themes:

- The historical nature of the covenants that are a key feature within Religion.
- The person of Jesus and the importance he has for Christians around the world.
- The challenges of believing in God and following a religion in the 21st century.
- The benefits of belonging to a community and how this can be celebrated.
- Outward signs and symbols of a religion.
- The role of forgiveness and the challenges faced when needing to forgive.
- Stewardship and climate change.
- An in depth understanding of Catholic Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Islam, Atheism and Humanism.
- The study of philosophical concepts including the origins of the world, evil and suffering within our world today, the existence of miracles, visions and religious experiences.
- The study of ethical concepts including the equality of men and women in society, homosexuality, transgender, sexual relationships and contraception, the role of marriage, family life, organ transplants, abortion, prejudice and discrimination.

How does *Religious Education* help you in other subject areas?

There are a number of opportunities for links with other subjects within the school's curriculum in terms of both subject content and also transferable skills.

The breadth of what is studied in Religious Education allows for content links with Geography, History, Science, English and PSHE. Some of the content links include stewardship, global warming, war, equality, prejudice and discrimination, the reformation of the church, contraception, British values and SMSC.

The analytical and critical thinking skills are transferable to all other subjects that are studied by our students. As well as the ability to present a well-developed and considered point of view. Within Religious Education students are encouraged to support their opinions with evidence which they appraise and consider the strength it adds to their argument. Which again is a well sort after skill needed across their whole curriculum.



What can you do to deepen your knowledge and skills of *Religious Education*?

Students are encouraged to read around the subject of Religious Education and also to engage with suitable news outlets to review the current climate our world faces and the place Religion has within it.

Students are also offered experiences of spiritual retreats throughout Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 where they are encouraged to reflect on their own development, talents and aspirations which will allow them to succeed in their life beyond education.

Students are always encouraged to take part with various charity events which are both national and locally beneficial from CAFOD world gifts to food collections for local foodbanks.

As a Catholic school we have a number of liturgical celebrations and opportunities for self-reflection. Students are always welcomed to take part in all of the celebrations we have within school and are encouraged to lead the rest of the student body within these services.

How are you assessed in *Religious Education*?

Key Stage 3

Students are assessed using the school system of:

- Not accessing
- Emerging
- Developing
- Secure

Key Stage 4 (Grade 9 – 1)

Students will sit three exams for Religious Studies. The first paper is 1hr 45minutes in duration while the next two are 50minutes each in duration.

Catholic Christianity (1hr 45 minutes worth 50% of final mark)

Judaism (50 minutes worth 25% of final mark)

Philosophy and Ethics (50 minutes worth 25% of final mark)

There are a range of question styles that will be used in the papers. As a department we believe it is important that pupils are comfortable answering each of the styles and therefore throughout the curriculum we spend time practicing each of the styles as well as giving pupils in depth and specific feedback on how they can develop their exam technique further.



How can *Religious Education* help you in your future?

The study of Religious Education can be useful for a range of careers including:

- Police
- Journalism
- Social work
- Legal profession
- Medical profession
- Teaching
- Counselling
- Development / Charity work
- Youth work
- Local government roles
- The Armed Forces



INSERT SUBJECT – Curriculum Maps

Key: ----- = half-term **Bold** = Re-teaching/Revisiting/Retrieval *Italics* = SRE Session

Year 7:

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8
Topics	Introduction to RE and Baseline	Signs of belonging and Mission Statements	What it means to be Catholic and prayer.	The role and importance of the Bible and mass.	Our welcome mass and Faith in Action	Who is God? What is the nature of God?	The Big Bang, Evolution and Creationism.	The Trinity and Who is God to me?
	Week 9	Week 10	Week 11	Week 12	Week 13	Week 14	Week 15	Week 16
Topics	Who is Jesus and what is His mission?	Jesus' followers and haters.	Jesus' miracles	The incarnation and Advent	The meaning of Christmas Faith in Action	How is Jesus present in the world?	Who is Jesus to me?	What is our purpose?
	Week 17	Week 18	Week 19	Week 20	Week 21	Week 22	Week 23	Week 24
Topics	Jesus' parables	Vocation and the Beatitudes	Life after death and Faith in Action	Social justice and human rights.	CAFOD and Respect	Sacraments	Holy Communion and Confirmation	Christian marriage and symbols
	Week 25	Week 26	Week 27	Week 28	Week 29	Week 30	Week 31	Week 32
Topics	History of the Church and <i>Who Am I?</i>	Denominations and <i>Changing Bodies</i>	Features of a Church and <i>Healthy Inside and Out</i>	Pentecost and <i>Where We Come From</i>	Religious Communities <i>Family and Friends</i>	Form Saints and <i>Living Responsibly</i>	Form Saints and <i>Facts of Life</i>	Sainthood and Faith in Action
	Week 33	Week 34	Week 35	Week 36	Week 37	Week 38	Week 39	
Topics	Communion of Saints and The Good Samaritan	Introduction to Hinduism and Deities	Forms of worship and ways of life	Hindu teaching on Life after death	Hindu Festivals	Hindu responses to Stewardship and war	Hindu responses to animal rights.	

Year 8:

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8
Topics	Initial assessment and Genesis.	What makes a leader?	The Covenants of the Bible.	Plagues of Egypt and the 10 Commandments.	What is a Covenant?	Christian Love	Stewardship	Destroying the Planet
	Week 9	Week 10	Week 11	Week 12	Week 13	Week 14	Week 15	Week 16
Topics	Can a person change the world? <i>Who am I?</i>	Pupil Presentations. <i>Changing Bodies.</i>	Passover and the Last Supper. <i>Healthy Inside and Out.</i>	Why Love your neighbour? <i>Where We Come From.</i>	The Unforgiving Servant and <i>Friends and Family.</i>	The Beatitudes and <i>Living Responsibly.</i>	Our Interview with God and <i>Facts of Life.</i>	Prejudice and Discrimination.
	Week 17	Week 18	Week 19	Week 20	Week 21	Week 22	Week 23	Week 24
Topics	Sexism, Disability and <i>Created and Chosen</i>	Homophobia, Transphobia and <i>Deepest Identity</i>	What sacrifices do I make? <i>What Do I Do With These Feelings?</i>	Holy Week and <i>Before I Was Born.</i>	Jesus' resurrection and the Road to Emmaus. <i>When Relationships Get Tough.</i>	Right and Wrong, Moral Decisions and <i>Think Before You Share.</i>	Conscience and Sin. <i>Living In An Unjust World.</i>	Reconciliation and Forgiveness.
	Week 25	Week 26	Week 27	Week 28	Week 29	Week 30	Week 31	Week 32
Topics	What is God Like? Evil and Suffering.	Apartheid and Nelson Mandela.	Capital Punishment.	Human Rights.	War.	Human Dignity.	CAFOD.	World Poverty.
	Week 33	Week 34	Week 35	Week 36	Week 37	Week 38	Week 39	
Topics	Catholic Social Teaching.	Introduction to Islam and the Prophet Muhammad.	Five Pillars of Islam.	Islamic Ways of Life.	Islam and the environment.	Islam and capital punishment.	Islam and moral issues.	

Year 9:

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8
Topics	Initial assessment and The Trinity.	The Nicene Creed.	Genesis and Creation.	Nature of Humanity.	The Incarnation.	The Paschal Mystery.	The Significance of the Paschal Mystery.	Salvation and Grace
	Week 9	Week 10	Week 11	Week 12	Week 13	Week 14	Week 15	Week 16
Topics	Eschatology. <i>The Search For Love.</i>	The Sacraments. <i>Love People, Use Things.</i>	Divergent Christian Views. <i>In Control Of My Choices.</i>	Funeral Rites. <i>Fertility and Contraception.</i>	Liturgical Worship and Marriage.	Prayer. <i>One Hundred Percent.</i>	<i>Popular Piety and Knowing My Rights and Responsibilities.</i>	Pilgrimage.
	Week 17	Week 18	Week 19	Week 20	Week 21	Week 22	Week 23	Week 24
Topics	Catholic Social Teaching.	Catholic Mission and Evangelisation.	The Bible.	Different Interpretations of the Bible.	The Magisterium.	Apostolic Succession and Tradition.	Second Vatican Council.	Church as the Body of Christ.
	Week 25	Week 26	Week 27	Week 28	Week 29	Week 30	Week 31	Week 32
Topics	Mary as a model of the Church.	The Four Marks of the Church.	Personal and Ethical Decision Making.	Jesus as Law Giver.	Catholic Church Architecture.	Internal Church Features.	Sacred Objects.	Catholic Artwork.
	Week 33	Week 34	Week 35	Week 36	Week 37	Week 38	Week 39	
Topics	Sculptures and Statues.	Symbolism.	Drama.	Music In Worship.	Exam Technique - B Style Questions.	Exam Technique - C Style Questions.	Exam Technique – D Style Questions.	

Year 10:

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8
Topics	Initial assessment and The nature of the Almighty.	The Shekinah.	The Messiah.	Covenant with Abraham.	Covenant at Sinai.	Moral Principles and the Mitzvots.	Pikuach Nefesh.	Life after death.
	Week 9	Week 10	Week 11	Week 12	Week 13	Week 14	Week 15	Week 16
Topics	Synagogue. <i>The Search For Love.</i>	The Tenakh and Talmud. <i>Love People, Use Things.</i>	Public acts of worship. <i>In Control Of My Choices.</i>	Private Prayer. <i>Fertility and Contraception.</i>	Shema and Amidah. <i>Marriage.</i>	Shabbat. <i>One Hundred Percent.</i>	Kosher. <i>Knowing My Rights and Responsibilities.</i>	Brit Milah, Bar and Bat Mitzvah.
	Week 17	Week 18	Week 19	Week 20	Week 21	Week 22	Week 23	Week 24
Topics	Marriage and Death Rituals. <i>Authentic Freedom.</i>	Pilgrim Festivals. <i>Body Image.</i>	Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah. <i>Values, Attitudes and Beliefs.</i>	Exam Technique – D Style Questions. <i>Pregnancy and Abortion.</i>	Exam Technique – B and C Style Questions. <i>Parenthood: Ready or Not?</i>	Mary as a model of the Church. Four Marks of the Church. Exploitation.	Personal and Ethical Decision Making. Jesus as law giver. Moral Questions.	Catholic Church Architecture and Internal Features of the Church.
	Week 25	Week 26	Week 27	Week 28	Week 29	Week 30	Week 31	Week 32
Topics	Sacred Objects and Artwork.	Sculptures and Statues and Symbolism.	Drama and Music in Worship.	Revelation and Visions.	Miracles and Religious Experience.	The Design Argument and Cosmological Argument.	Existence of Evil and Suffering.	Solutions to the problem of evil and suffering.
	Week 33	Week 34	Week 35	Week 36	Week 37	Week 38	Week 39	
Topics	Marriage and Pre Marital Sex.	Sexuality.	Contraception.	The family and support for the family.	Divorce and Remarriage.	Equality in the Family.	Gender Prejudice and Discrimination.	

Year 11:

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8
Topics	Initial assessment and The Trinity.	Genesis, Creation and the Nature of Humanity.	The Incarnation, Paschal Mystery and the significance.	Salvation and Grace and Eschatology.	The Sacraments, Funeral Rites and Liturgical Worship.	Prayer, Popular Piety and Pilgrimage.	Catholic Social Teaching, Catholic Mission and Evangelisation.	The Bible and interpretations of the Bible.
	Week 9	Week 10	Week 11	Week 12	Week 13	Week 14	Week 15	Week 16
Topics	The Magisterium, Apostolic Succession and Tradition. <i>The Search For Love.</i>	Second Vatican Council, Church as the Body of Christ and Mary. <i>Love People, Use Things.</i>	Personal and Ethical Decision Making. Jesus as law giver. <i>In Control Of My Choices.</i>	Catholic Church Architecture and Internal Features of the Church. <i>Fertility and Contraception.</i>	Sacred Objects and Artwork. <i>Marriage.</i>	Sculptures and Statues and Symbolism. <i>One Hundred Percent.</i>	Drama and Music in Worship. <i>Knowing My Rights and Responsibilities.</i>	Revelation and Visions.
	Week 17	Week 18	Week 19	Week 20	Week 21	Week 22	Week 23	Week 24
Topics	Miracles and Religious Experience. <i>Authentic Freedom.</i>	The Design Argument and Cosmological Argument. <i>Body Image.</i>	Existence of Evil and Suffering and the solutions. <i>Values, Attitudes and Beliefs.</i>	Marriage and Pre Marital Sex and Sexuality. <i>Pregnancy and Abortion.</i>	Contraception, The family and support for the family. <i>Parenthood: Ready or Not?</i>	Divorce and Remarriage. <i>Exploitation.</i>	<i>Equality in the Family and Gender Prejudice and Discrimination. Moral Questions.</i>	The Shekinah and the Messiah.
	Week 25	Week 26	Week 27	Week 28	Week 29	Week 30	Week 31	Week 32
Topics	Covenants with Abraham and Moses and Moral Principles and the Mitzvots	Pikuach Nefesh and Life after death.	Synagogue, Tenakh and Talmud and Public Worship.	Private Prayer, Shema and Amidah and Shabbat.	Rituals in Judaism.	Jewish Festivals.	Catholic Christianity Exam	Judaism Exam
	Week 33	Week 34	Week 35	Week 36	Week 37	Week 38	Week 39	
Topics	Exam Technique.	Philosophy and Ethics Exam						



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