



RELIGIOUS STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Curriculum Overview



The curriculum of the school reflects the demands of the National Curriculum. It is designed in order to provide all pupils with a broad, balanced education relevant to their needs both now and in the future.

Departmental Overview

The Religious Studies Department is comprised of 1 specialist teacher. Religious Studies is studied by all pupils in key stage 3, with a strong focus on religious traditions, the moral and ethical world in which we live and the impact of cultural beliefs in the world today. The curriculum explores the six major world religions of Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism, Buddhism and Hinduism, throughout key stage 3 and 4. Each year, the R.S. department take a large group of boys from the Year 10 cohort to Krakow, Poland. Whilst there we visit Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest of the Nazi's concentration camps. The exhibition details the brick blocks where prisoners were kept, the infamous gas chambers and the crematorium. There is also an opportunity to see Birkenau (Auschwitz II), the Gate of Death, the wooden barracks and the Victims' Memorial. Although harrowing, this exhibition is thought provoking and leaves students with a clear and poignant experience of what life was like for the Jewish people in Nazi occupied Europe, during the Holocaust.

Departmental Staff

Mrs D Tyrer Head of Department

Ms C Jones SLT Line Manager

Year 7 Religious Studies (KS3)

Curriculum Overview

The topics studied in year 7 include Inspirational figures, Buddhism, The Life of Jesus, Islam and Judaism. Each topic is studied for a minimum of a half term, with a focus of learning about religion and from religion. Core GCSE skills are a central focus of teaching within KS3 religious education lessons, these include the skills of outline, explain, analyse and evaluate.

Examinations/Key Assessments

At the end of each topic studied pupils will sit an assessment, testing their knowledge and skills acquired during their study of religion and moral topics. The assessment will include extended writing questions.

Homework

Homework is set every other week and placed on Show My Homework, pupils are expected to check Show My Homework to find homework set. Homework supports the work undertaken in the classroom and will enhance understanding and ability in the subject, so must be completed to a high standard. Pupils will be encouraged to develop their research skills and use of I.C.T.

How Parents can Help

Please take an active interest in the themes being studied in Religious Education. If possible take time to discuss any homework that has been set and help if necessary. Pupils should be encouraged to use the internet to investigate topics, and complete the practice exam questions set to further their understanding of the topics and exam style questioning and answers.

Year 8 Religious Studies (KS3)

Curriculum Overview

The topics studied in year 8 include: Hinduism, Sikhism, Religion in the Media, The Holocaust and Moral Issues in Society. Each topic is studied for a minimum of a half term, with a focus of learning about religion and from religion. Core GCSE skills are a central focus of teaching within KS3 religious education lessons, these include the skills of outline, explain, analyse and evaluate.

Examinations/Key Assessments

At the end of each topic studied pupils will sit an assessment, testing their knowledge and skills acquired during their study of religion and moral topics. The assessment will include extended writing questions.

Homework

Homework is set every other week and placed on Show My Homework, pupils are expected to check Show My Homework to find homework set. Homework supports the work undertaken in the classroom and will enhance understanding and ability in the subject, so must be completed to a high standard. Pupils will be encouraged to develop their research skills and use of I.C.T.

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Year 9/10/11 Religious Studies (KS4)

Examination/Specification Board

EDEXCEL Specification B

Curriculum Overview

During their RE lessons, pupils will study the following units of work:

Religion and Ethics

- Believing in God (arguments for and against the existence of God, the problem of evil and suffering)
- Matters of Life and Death (life after death, issues surrounding abortion and euthanasia)
- Marriage and the Family (sex outside of marriage, marriage, divorce, homosexuality, contraception)
- Living the Religious Life

Religion, Peace and Conflict

- Crime and Punishment (law and justice, types of punishment, capital punishment, drugs and alcohol)
- Peace and Conflict (world peace, just war, bullying, religious conflict, forgiveness and reconciliation)

This builds upon subjects studied in key stage 3.

Examinations/Key Assessments

At the end of each module taught, pupils will have an assessment, to grade learning. This will be in the form of practice and past examination questions and they will be given advice and examples of how to answer these questions in order to gain their predicted grades or higher. Two G.C.S.E examination papers will be sat in the summer of Y11; each paper is 1 hour 45 minutes in length.

Homework

Homework supports the work undertaken in the classroom and will enhance understanding and ability in the subject, so must be completed to a high standard. Pupils will be encouraged to develop their research skills and use of I.C.T.

How Parents can Help

Please take an active interest in the themes being studied in Religious Education. If possible take time to discuss any homework that has been set and help if necessary. Pupils should be encouraged to use the internet to investigate topics, and complete the practice exam questions set to further their understanding of the topics and exam style questioning and answers.