



Religious Education

Subject Intent:

Under the patronage of Our Lady, the Faculty of Religious Education and Personal Development aims to equip each pupil with the skills to thrive in our ever changing world. This includes a solid grounding in the teachings, traditions and beliefs of the Catholic faith whilst also developing an appreciation and respect for all faiths. Pupils are challenged on their assumptions to help them formulate a robust understanding of the faith and come to the realisation that each and every one of them is loved and valued by God.

In lessons pupils develop the skills of resilience, critically thinking and dialectics through the exploration of their faith historically, in contemporary issues, through biblical studies and philosophical thought. In turn pupils are encouraged to learn from religion in an experiential manner, whether in the classroom or on visits. Students are actively encouraged to question not only their own beliefs but also those posed to them in order to fully appreciate the complexities of life, belief and the divine, and in doing so, deepen their understanding, and by extension, their faith in God.

Religious Education should however also go beyond the realms of a mainstream subject and encourages each of our pupils, whether Catholic or not, to consider their own spirituality and deepen their knowledge, understanding and experience of Christ.

Course Overview:

At KS3 pupils are taught in line with the directives of the Bishop's Conference Directory.

At GCSE pupils study Eduqas Religious Studies Route B

At A Level pupils study OCR Religious Studies H573

Course Detail:

Key stage 3

In KS3 pupils follow a curriculum that addresses the basics of belief predominately in Catholicism but also looking at all World faiths addressing why we believe in God, what we believe about God and the world around us, and how a belief in God affects us. This provides the foundation for greater in depth study at GCSE.

Each topic builds upon the knowledge and skills studied previously whilst returning to familiar themes of incarnation, the kingdom of God, the people of God, prophecy and wisdom, creation and the fall, and Gospel.

In each unit:

We listen (exploring scripture and magisterial text)

We believe (understanding doctrine and theological concepts)

We gather (studying church authority)

We celebrate (encountering sacraments, liturgy and prayer)

We live (examining life and ethics)

We share (engaging in philosophical and inter-religious dialogue)

KS3 topics:

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| YEAR 7 An Introduction to the study of Religion | THE ISLAND: The basics of religion | REVELATION: Understanding the Word of God | CHRISTOLOGY: Exploring Jesus the man and the messiah | THE PASCHAL MYSTERY: A modern look at the Easter story through | HUMAN RIGHTS: Examining the concept of Imago dei | ISLAM: A study of the Muslim faith |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|--|

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|---|
| | | | | film and literature | | |
| YEAR 8 Challenging your beliefs | PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION: An exploration of the big questions in life | CHURCH HISTORY Understanding how religion has shaped the world | SAINTS & SINNERS: An examination of key people in the history of Christianity | CREDO: Exploring key beliefs in Christianity | WAR & PEACE: Studying the Christian response to conflict | INDIAN SUB-CONTINENT RELIGIONS: A study of Sikhism and Hinduism |
| YEAR 9 Religion in the modern world | VOCATION: Exploring our roles in life | | MEDICAL ETHICS: Examining modern bio-medical issues | | JUDAISM: A study of the Jewish faith – its beliefs and practices | |

Key stage 4

In KS4 all pupils follow WJEC Eduqas GCSE Religious Studies Route B. This involves a study of Foundational Catholic Theology which explores the basics of Christian thought (Origins & Meaning and Good & Evil), Applied Catholic Theology which considering how Christians live out their lives (Life & Death and Sin & Forgiveness) and a study of the teachings and practices of Judaism. Each section involves examining the relevant beliefs and teachings, exploring the views of the magisterium or theologians, how these beliefs and views impact the lives of Christians and how these are expressed in artwork, music, architecture or sculpture.

The GCSE course includes the study of the following areas:

Foundational Catholic Theology

Origins and Meaning

Understanding the Bible

The debate between science religion on the creation of the universe and the origin of life

The debate on beginning of life and abortion

An exploration of Catholic Social Teaching

Good and Evil

The debate surrounding whether an all-loving God could allow evil in the world

The nature of God (the trinity and the incarnation)

The teachings of Jesus on virtue and morality

Applied Catholic Theology

Life and Death

The debate surrounding the end of life care, euthanasia and funerals

Views on what happens to us when we die and where we may go

The role of music in prayer and worship

Where Catholic beliefs come from and the Second Vatican Council

Sin and Forgiveness

The debate surrounding punishment and forgiveness, including whether the death penalty should be permitted

The importance of the sacraments in Salvation and redemption

The nature of the church and evangelisation

Judaism

Jewish beliefs about Yahweh, the messiah and the afterlife

Yahweh's covenants with Abraham, the importance of Moses and the mitzvot

The role and importance of the synagogue

Jewish festivals and rites of passage

Exploring Jewish daily life including Kosher laws and the role of the home

Key stage 5

A Level OCR Religious Studies (H573) is a critical examination of the big questions in life through the exploration of Philosophy of Religion, Moral Philosophy and the Development of Christianity over the past two millennia.

Students will get to consider and debate topics such as the existence of God, the nature of freewill and its relationship to evil in the world, the consideration of life after death and the role the media plays in defining morality.

A Level RS will...

challenge your thinking,
developing your critical analysis of ideas to help you hone your judgments and articulate your views clearly,
enable you to evaluate arguments to come to reasoned and logical conclusions,
help you take responsibility for your own learning to prepare you for the world of world or further study at university

The course comprises:

Philosophy of Religion (H573/01)

The origins of Philosophy – Plato & Aristotle

An exploration of life after death, including the soul, mind and body interaction

The Nature and Existence of God

Challenges to belief in God such as the problem of evil

Attempts to understand God through religious experience and religious language

Religious Ethics (H573/02)

The study of key approaches to morality – duty, egoism, virtue, religion and the greater good

Attempts to understand morality through ethical language

Application of ethical theories to issues surrounding business and euthanasia

The debate surrounding the ethics of sexuality and the existence of conscience

Developments in Christian Thought (H573/03)

Examining human nature, considering how we should live, our roles and obligations

The study of liberation and feminist theology

The exploration of the person of Jesus and our understanding God

The role of religion in a pluralistic society and our understanding of death and the next life

Post 16 Core Religious Studies

All students in the Sixth Form undertake Core Religious Studies to continue the development of their Catholic faith with a focus on individual belief and spirituality and putting that belief into action. Students of all faiths and none are welcome in the Sixth Form as every student gets the chance to reflect on their own beliefs and values whilst also contemplating the Divine.

Students undertake The Award of Personal Effectiveness by Asdan which allows them to explore key skills and qualities that will benefit them in later life be that at university or in the work place whilst also having the opportunity to put St. John's words into action: *'our love must not just be words or mere talk, but something active and genuine'* [1 John 3: 18].

The programme of study each year through the medium of weekly lessons means that students will get the opportunity to deepen their understanding of their faith, exploring SMSVC (Spiritual, Moral, Social, Vocational and Cultural) issues that are important to them and the local community, reflect on their Christian service through talks from outside speakers, and take an active role in leading the rest of the school in charity initiatives.

Enrichment opportunities

Students will have the opportunity to take part in numerous national competitions such as NATRE's Spirited Arts Competition; go on trips to places of worship and sites of historical religious importance such as Harvington Hal; and attend student conferences at local universities.

Useful links

OCR A Level Religious Studies Website: <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/religious-studies-h173-h573-from-2016/>

Useful website for A level revision resources: <https://peped.org/>

Asdan Award for Personal Effectiveness Website:

<https://www.asdan.org.uk/courses/qualifications/award-of-personal-effectiveness>