



Religious Studies

Intent:

The Religious Studies curriculum is designed to help students develop critical thinking and the ability to evaluate ideas effectively. The KS3 curriculum focuses on helping students express themselves clearly and take part in meaningful discussions about important topics. The lessons are built around real-life issues and ethical dilemmas, which are explored through the beliefs and teachings of the major world religions. Students will also work on improving their writing skills, with a focus on analysis and evaluation, to prepare them for a return to mainstream settings.

In KS4 the Religious Studies curriculum is designed to help students become confident, thoughtful, and responsible members of society. By the end of KS4, students will gain a clear and practical understanding of how both religious and non-religious belief systems address important questions about life and how they apply their views to real-world ethical issues.

The curriculum also aims to support students in becoming better writers, improving their ability to express their thoughts clearly and logically. This focus on writing will help to develop literacy skills, which are essential for success both in education and in everyday life.

Implementation:

Students will explore topics related to religious ethics. They will look at important and challenging issues such as animal testing, euthanasia, and Human Rights. Topics will often use a stimulus, such as a story, video, or scenario, which will help to start class discussions and encourage students to share their thoughts and opinions in a respectful way.

Following this, students will learn about how major world religion's view and respond to the ethical issue being discussed. Through this, they will gain an understanding of different perspectives and beliefs. Students will also develop their skills in evaluating and analysing these views, thinking critically about the issue and forming their own considered opinions.

KS4 follow the AQA exam board short course in Religious Studies. This course focuses on developing an understanding of two major world religions, as well as exploring non-religious perspectives. Students will study the beliefs and practices of Christianity and Buddhism, gaining insight into the teachings and traditions of these faiths.

In addition, students will explore two key themes from both religious and non-religious viewpoints. These themes include Relationships and Families, which looks at issues like marriage, parenting, and gender roles, and Religion, Peace, and Conflict, which examines topics such as war, violence, and reconciliation.

Lesson will often be discussion led around a stimulus in order to support the development of ideas and the consideration of multiple viewpoints. Lessons are then designed to prepare students for the exam by focusing on practicing exam-style questions. Students will also work on essay writing, which helps them to develop their evaluative skills and the ability to

construct clear and balanced arguments. This approach ensures that students are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in their Religious Studies course and beyond.

Impact:

At both key stages the impact of Religious Studies is to help students understand and respect the different major worldviews and belief systems. It is designed to encourage students to become open-minded and informed about the perspectives of others, fostering a sense of tolerance and understanding.

The curriculum also supports students in developing their ability to clearly express their own views and actively participate in formal discussions and dialogues. Through these activities, students will learn how to think critically about their own beliefs and opinions, as well as those of others, encouraging thoughtful reflection and deeper understanding.

In addition, students will develop the skills to explain and refer to the beliefs, practices, and viewpoints of various belief systems. This helps to build knowledge and appreciation of different cultures and faiths. Finally, the curriculum focuses on improving students' ability to analyse and evaluate information effectively, preparing them with key skills that are essential for academic progress and personal growth.

At KS4 the expectation is that all students will achieve a grade at GCSE level.