



KS3 Curriculum Overview

Religious Studies

Curriculum Intent

Religious literacy is the knowledge of, and ability to understand, religion, beliefs, practices, spiritual insights and secular world views. It plays an important part in preparing young people for life in modern Britain. Its importance is increasing as globalisation has created greater links and migration between societies of different faiths and cultures. By the end of Year 9, students will be able to talk with fluency and understanding about religion and belief.

How does the KS3 curriculum build on that from KS2?

Students are introduced to the six main world religions (Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism) and humanism in varying depth at Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. The Key Stage 3 curriculum ensures that students develop their knowledge and understanding of these religions and secular beliefs, focusing on key beliefs and sources of authority, so that by the end of Year 7, all students have the same core knowledge and understanding.

What do students *do* with this knowledge or these skills?

Students use their understanding of religious beliefs and secular worldviews to explore how they influence people's behaviour and the way in which they address the 'Big Questions,' such as creation and the afterlife. Students compare different religious practices and how they can shape the lives of individuals, communities, societies and cultures. Additionally, students make reasoned and informed judgements about religious issues and religious and non-religious responses to the 'Big Questions.'

How does the KS3 curriculum align to the National Curriculum?

Our curriculum follows the Cambridgeshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

What new knowledge or skills are students taught?

Term	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Autumn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jewish beliefs • Christian beliefs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cosmological and teleological arguments • Creationist theories and stories • Big Bang and Evolution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subjective vs objective morality • Crime and Punishment • The Death Penalty
Spring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Islamic beliefs • Sikh beliefs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jewish Exodus • Passover and Eucharist • Worship and Festivals in the six major faiths 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philosophical perspectives on the environment • Stewardship vs dominion • Government control and climate change
Summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hindu beliefs • Buddhist beliefs • Secular beliefs – humanism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salvation history • Life after death in the six major faiths • Biblical literacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religious responses to equality • Religious responses to relationships • How do different religions respond to global catastrophes?
Rationale for this sequencing	<p>Students are introduced to the 6 main world religions and the humanist worldview. This is in response to the fact that most students arrive in Year 7 with very limited RS knowledge. The Year 7 course builds the foundations for Year 8 and 9 – students must know about key religious beliefs and sources of authority before they can consider how these influence behaviours.</p>	<p>Students explore how the religious beliefs that they studied in Year 7 influence a philosophical, scientific and theological reflection on the nature of reality and the origins of the cosmos. They will then explore the worshipping practices of the Abrahamic faiths as well as Hinduism, Sikhism and Bhuddism. This will lead to a broader reflection on salvation history within Christianity, Biblical literacy and life after death across the world faiths</p>	<p>Students will begin by asking philosophically if moral questioning is even valid and if right and wrong is more than just a personal choice. This will be followed by an exploration of the ethics surrounding Crime and Punishment. Students will reflect further on the relationship between the individual, government and environmental issues. They will finish with a study of the nature of equality across all world faiths and how each religion responds to the biggest issues of our time.</p>

Additional support at home

Additional reading for enjoyment, enhancement and extension	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EXPLORING THE MAJOR FAITHS: 5 Major Religions of the World - How Each Describes God (everystudent.com) • MORALS, ETHICS AND PHILOSOPHY: Morals, ethics and philosophy - KS3 Religious Studies - BBC Bitesize • Julian of Norwich, Revelations of Divine Love: The Project Gutenberg eBook of Revelations Of Divine Love, by Julian of Norwich.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thomas Aquinas, Summa Theologica: SUMMA THEOLOGIAE: Home (newadvent.org) • The Koran: The Noble Quran - Quran.com • Guru Granth Sahib: English translation of Siri Guru Granth Sahib by Dr. Sant Singh Khalsa (sikhnet.com) • The Torah: The Complete Tanakh (Tanach) - Hebrew Bible - Tanakh Online - Torah - Bible (chabad.org) • The King James Bible: King James Bible Online (thekingsbible.com) • The Baghavat Gita: Bhagavad Gita: Read Online Free & Download PDF - Read Online Free or Download PDF (rupanugabhajanashram.com) • Mahayana Buddhist Sutras: Mahayana Buddhist Sutras In English (huzheng.org)
<p>Online resources to practice, consolidate and revise</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision quizzes: KS3 RE - 20 Enjoyable Quizzes for Years 7, 8 and 9 (educationquizzes.com) • CAFOD Resources: RE curriculum in Catholic schools (cafod.org.uk)
<p>Workbooks & revision guides to practice, consolidate and revise</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision Guide: KS3 Religious Education Complete Revision & Practice (with Online Edition): ideal for Years 7, 8 and 9 (CGP KS3 Revision & Practice) : CGP Books, CGP Books: Amazon.co.uk: Books • Fun Revision: Y7 KS3 RE - Teaching resources (wordwall.net)