Welcome to the Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE) Department

Subject Leader Mr M Bonnett

Subject Overview

Key Stage 3: Years 7 and 8

At Key Stage 3, students are encouraged to develop a wider knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of the principal religions and worldviews represented in the United Kingdom today. Students develop an understanding of the influence of beliefs, values and traditions upon individuals and religious communities. Students develop the skills to consider and question the world around them respectfully and thoughtfully in order to make reasoned and informed judgements about religious issues.

Key Stage 4: Years 9 to 11

Students in Year 9 who have opted for the GCSE Option in Religious Studies will follow the AQA Religious Studies A Specification, with a focus on Christianity and Islam

All Year 9 students will also receive a 'Core Ethics' curriculum, following the SACRE guidance available in order to give all students their legal entitlement to Religious Studies education

Students in Years 10 and 11 will be completing the AQA Religious Studies A Specification, with a focus on Christianity and Islam within the RS / PD Rotation

Teaching Aims and Objectives

Within Religious Studies our aims are as follows:

- To provoke challenging questions about meaning and purpose in life, beliefs about God, ultimate reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human.
- To learn about religion, and learn from religion, in order to develop a knowledge and understanding of world views in local, national and international contexts.
- To promote tolerance, respect and understanding of different faith and belief systems.
- To develop ideas, values and identities.
- To gain and deploy the skills needed to understand, interpret and evaluate texts, sources of wisdom and authority and other evidence.
- To listen respectfully and respond to the ideas of others.
- To question and challenge ideas and evaluate personal beliefs and the beliefs of others.
- To appreciate diversity between and within faiths.
- To understand the importance and relevance of being part of a community.
- To consider how religion, belief and faith affects those living in Modern Britain today through their beliefs and actions.
- To develop an awareness and understanding of the role that spirituality plays in the lives of people of all faiths, belief systems and backgrounds.

Course Information

Key Stage 3

Year 7

- What is Religion, Philosophy and Ethics?
- Judaism and Jewish Culture
- Why is Jesus important within Christianity?
- Sikhi Dharma and Community

Year 8

- A Non-Religious Worldview (Humanism)
- Islam and Representation
- Social Justice
- Buddha Dharma

Key Stage 4

Year 9 Core Ethics

- Living the Good Life

Year 9 GCSE Class (2026-2027)

- Christian Beliefs
- Theme E: Crime and Punishment
- Christian Practices

Year 10 GCSE RS / PD Rotation Classes (2026-2027)

- Christian Practices
- Theme A
- Islamic Beliefs

Year 11 GCSE RS / PD Rotation Classes (2026-2027)

- Islamic Beliefs / Practices
- Theme D
- Theme B

Course Information

Key Stage 5

The RPE A-Level is split into three distinct units, each with 6 topic of study. The Units are:

- Unit 1: Philosophy of Religion
- Unit 2: Religious Ethics
- Unit 4A: Buddhism

Homework, Marking and Assessment

Homework

Students in Key Stage 3 will be set a variety of homeworks within each topic. These may include:

- Extract reading
- Short research tasks
- Application tasks
- Revision resource making

These homeworks will be set with appropriate classroom support, but students may also benefit from using BBC Bitesize RS or other similar websites to aid in their studies.

Students in Years 10 and 11 completing the GCSE course in the RS / PD Rotation will be set homework every 3 lessons, focusing on a 12 mark exam question.

Students completing the Year 9 full course Option GCSE will be set homework weekly. This homework may include:

- Exam Questions
- Short research tasks
- Revision resource creation

For the AQA GCSE, excellent resources can be found in the Google Classroom, on Seneca, BBC Bitesize or other appropriate resource.

A Level students will be set homework weekly. This homework is likely to invove a range of exam questions or development / reading / application tasks. All A-Level students are expected to read widely around the subject, and reading lists are provided in lesson.

Homework, Marking and Assessment

Marking

Key Stage 3

RPE teachers follow the school marking policy and in key stage 3 assess against age related expectations. Staff will offer encouragement and may point out spelling and grammatical errors or prompt students to reflect more deeply.

In each unit of study, students in Years 7 and 8 will complete one formative and one summative piece of work.

The formative piece of work may involve extended writing, design or application of ideas and will always be accompanied by a detailed marking grid with criteria.

The Summative piece of work will be an written assessment, designed to assess the main skills in RPE. These tests will contain short answer responses, quote analysis, personal reflections and judgements. All summative work will be marked and followed by an Action Feedback lesson, focused on improving and responding to their class work.

Key Stage 4

RPE teachers follow the school marking policy and in key stage 4 assess against age related expectations. Staff will offer encouragement and may point out spelling and grammatical errors or prompt students to reflect more deeply.

Students in Years 10 and 11 completing the Rotation PD / RS GCSE will receive marking on their homework 12 mark answers, with time to reflet and improve their responses.

Students in Year 9 following the Option Group GCSE will receive marking on formative and summative work, as well as detailed end of topic assessments with question level analysis.

All students in Year 9 completing the Core Ethics curriculum will receive verbal and peer based feedback.

Key Stage 5

Students completing the A-Level will receive feedback on a regularly basis. This includes:

- 1-2-1 conversations in class about their progress, understanding and development
- Whole class feedback on assessments, model answers and PPEs
- Written feedback and marking sheets for all homework and in class assessments
- Diagnostic documents for all PPEs and larger assessed work

Homework, Marking and Assessment

GCSE Examination

All students completing an examined route follow the AQA Religious Studies A Specification in Key Stage 4, with many sitting a GCSE in the subject at the end of Year 11.

https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-8062/specification

A Level

Students follow the Edexcel A level Syllabus. The three main areas of study are Philosophy of Religion, Religion and Ethics and the study of Buddhism.

https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/religious-studies-2016.html