

## Religious Studies Department

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Religious Education is the subject that teaches you about now, about yourself, and about other people.

### **The Distinctive Contribution of Religious Education to the School**

Religious Education contributes to the school curriculum by stimulating girls' curiosity about the beliefs, attitudes and the way of life of people living in Britain and the wider world. By engaging in the study of religion, girls develop their understanding of the characteristic features of a wide range of cultures and influential belief systems. They learn to appreciate the diversity of human experience, to respect other people and to be tolerant of other traditions. Through critical enquiry, thought and communication skills, they learn to evaluate different points of view and to clarify their own life choices, attitudes and values.



The aim is to provide a broad religious education, which includes the study of the six main world religions: Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism and Buddhism. It is also important to study the role that religion has in a wider social and moral context. The aim is to learn about, and to learn from, religion while expanding thoughts and beliefs and challenging ideas and concepts.

### **Key Stage 3**

RE is taught with a thematic approach. We study key ideas within religion and within that we then study specific topics as you can see below.

**Year 7** – What is RE? Basic Beliefs, Leaders and Founders, Creation Stories.

**Year 8** – Special clothing in religion, Rites of Passage, Pilgrimage, Places of worship.

**Year 9** – Life After Death. Why is it hard to believe in God? Who am I and what is my identity?



The enthusiasm of RE comes from the girls themselves. Here are some of their comments.

*“It’s really fun and interesting, we have lots of discussions, we do different things each year.”*

*“RE is now extremely interactive but we learn a lot at the same time.”*

*“We look at different aspects of each topic and we can express our opinions freely”*

## **Key Stage 4 – GCSE Religious Studies**

### **AQA GCSE Religious Studies**

- **Christianity** – Basic Beliefs and sources of Authority, Commitment and Membership, Places of Worship and Forms of Worship, the Importance of Holy Communion and key Christian Festivals.
- **Christianity and Ethics** – Girls will study the following subjects from a Christian perspective. The Right to Life, The use of Medical Technology, Personal & Social Responsibility, Global Concerns and Conflict.

For the full specification click on the following link:

<http://store.aqa.org.uk/qual/newgcse/pdf/AQA-4050-W-SP.PDF>

## **Sixth Form: AQA AS and A Level Religious Studies**

**AS: 2 Units worth 50% each of AS and 25% of A Level. Two written papers of 1 hour 15 minute each.**

- **Philosophy of Religion** – Studies include the Cosmological Argument, Religious Experience, Psychology and Religion and Atheism and postmodernism.
- **The History of Christianity** – The Celtic Church, the Protestant and Counter-reformations and the rise of Methodism.

### **A2**

- **Philosophy of Religion** – this builds on the unit studied at AS and discusses reason and faith, religious language, issues surrounding the body, soul and personal identity and finally the problem of evil.
- **Life, Death and Beyond** - Religious and Secular Perspectives on the nature and value of human life.

For the full specification click on the following link:

<http://store.aqa.org.uk/qual/gce/pdf/AQA-2060-W-SP.PDF>

**Why carry RE on?** *“The lessons in the Sixth Form give me a chance to debate and discuss my thoughts on many things. It is more open, and with smaller numbers it is easier to get involved.”*

### **A final note**

RE is primarily about having fun. The classroom is an environment of vibrant teaching and learning, where girls can feel valued in their contributions. RE is most importantly about the individual. The aim is to inspire belief and acceptance to make sure we can all learn from one another.