

Year 8 Religious Education

Our Religious Education provision is designed for the 21st century and goes beyond the traditional approach of describing what religious people do by delivering experiential, enactive, and enquiry-led lessons. Year 8 is focused upon introducing philosophical thinking and deepening their enquiries into specific religious traditions.

Autumn Term (Half-Terms 1 and 2)

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| Enquiry: Who are you? |
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| Learning Cycle 1: To explore philosophical questions about morality. |
| Key Questions: |
| Are you a fair and just person? (Plato) |
| How do you know who your friends are? (Aristotle) |
| Should you be rewarded for your effort in school? (Confucius) |
| Should you let little things bother you? (Marcus Aurelius) |
| Is it your duty to give to charity? (Moses Maimonides) |
| Will having fun make you happier than studying? (J.S. Mill) |
| Should you ever tell a lie? (Kant) |
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| Learning Cycle 2: To explore Christian beliefs about the Kingdom of Heaven. |
| Key Questions: |
| What makes humanity potentially evil? |
| Does humanity deserve to survive into the future? |
| What is the Bible? |
| What is the Kingdom of Heaven? |
| What did Jesus of Nazareth teach about the Kingdom of Heaven? |
| Which were the major events of Jesus' life? |

Spring Term (Half-Terms 3 and 4)

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| Enquiry: What does it mean to believe in something higher? |
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| Learning Cycle 1: To explore different ways of understanding the concept of "God". |
| Key Questions: |
| Does God really live in the sky? |
| What does God look like? |
| What is meant by God as "spirit"? |
| How can God be a making power? |
| How can God be a designing power? |
| How can God be understood as "personal"? |
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| Learning Cycle 2: To evaluate the ideas of Buddhism for the 21 st century. |
| Key Questions: |
| What is the role of myth in human stories? |
| Who was Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha) and how did he become Enlightened? |
| Why might the Four Noble Truths be useful? |
| How might the Noble Eightfold Path transform our experience? |
| What difference does meditation make? |
| What does life in the Sangha teach us about our values? |

Summer Term (Half-Terms 5 and 6)

Enquiry: How might religious belief transform people's experience?

Learning Cycle 1: To evaluate the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth.

Key Questions:

Why are Jesus' birth, baptism, execution, and ascension important to Christians?

What do his miracles teach us about Jesus?

Why did Jesus teach using parables?

To what extent is Jesus' last week the most important of his life?

Why was Jesus' execution important to Christians?

To extent can we believe the claim that Jesus rose from the dead?

Learning Cycle 2: To explore core beliefs and practices of Islam.

Key Questions:

How does the movement of our bodies affect our experience?

How do Muslims pray?

What's a Mosque?

How does Muslim art express beliefs about Allah?

What is the Qur'an?

What was the message of Muhammad (pbuh)?

What are the Five Pillars of Islam?