

Religious Studies (RS) at Norbury High

Overview

The RS Department at Norbury High aims to provide students with an extensive understanding of faith and culture. It allows students to explore the major philosophical and ethical questions of life, from creation to afterlife, which will give them a sense of identity and community.

Religious education is crucial in the world today for it breaks down barriers and stereotypes, bringing people together in the fight for social justice and global peace. The RS Department encourages its students to discover the views of others through developing their comprehension, evaluation and discussion skills. The aim of this is a strengthening of students' similarities and a respect for their differences, equipping them with the knowledge needed to live in a diverse and multicultural society.

Key Stage 3

Year 7 (RS taught as part of Humanities)

The curriculum in year 7 incorporates a range of humanities subjects including geography, history, religious studies and citizenship. Please refer to the separate year 7 humanities section for more information.

Year 8

In year 8, students start to engage with RS as an independent subject. Their learning centres on key beliefs and teachings in the four biggest religions: Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism. They will explore these faiths by studying their major teachings around origins, practices and afterlife. Students will be encouraged throughout to make links and comparisons between these four religions, drawing on their similarities and respecting their differences.

UNIT 1: Origins

This unit examines how the religions were founded and where in the world they are found. Students explore what religion is, why religion is important and the key features of religion.

UNIT 2: Rules

This unit provides a comparison of the different rules in each of the four religions, particularly with regard to living a moral life, sources of authority, food and wealth.

UNIT 3: Peace and Conflict

This unit gives students the opportunity to learn why religion has been a source of both peace and conflict in the world. Students will examine key teachings on harmony, love and equality but also explore how these teachings have been promoted or corrupted through history.

UNIT 4: Meaning and Purpose

This unit is a study of suffering and the afterlife. Students will examine how these concepts are related by investigating the purpose of life for these religions. Throughout the unit they will make comparisons between religions of the East and the West.

Key Stage 4

Students will study the Eduqas (formerly WJEC) GCSE, which incorporates three exams. These exams feature a mixture of short answer questions and essay writing.

Students will focus on the study of Christianity and Islam throughout. Component 1 allows them to make comparisons between these two religions on different themes. Components 2 and 3 provide for a much more extensive and independent study into each of these religions, focusing on their core beliefs and practices.

Year 10

Component 1: Religious, philosophical and ethical studies in the modern world.

In Component 1, students will explore the following topics:

1. ***Relationships***
(The purpose of marriage and family, marriage ceremonies, cultural traditions, divorce, adultery, same-sex relationships and gender equality)
2. ***Life and Death***
(Creation, religion and science, the environment, sanctity of life, abortion, euthanasia, funerals and the afterlife)
3. ***Good and Evil***
(Crime and punishment, death penalty, forgiveness, suffering and the problem of evil)
4. ***Human Rights***
(Social justice, censorship and free speech, extremism, prejudice and discrimination, wealth and poverty)

Year 11

Component 2: Christianity.

In Component 2, students will explore the following topics:

1. *Christianity: beliefs and teachings*

(Nature of God, the Trinity, creation, the life of Jesus and the afterlife)

2. *Christianity: practices*

(Worship, prayer, sacraments, celebrations, pilgrimage and Christianity in Britain)

Component 3: Islam.

In Component 3, students will explore the following topics:

1. *Islam: beliefs and teachings*

(The Ummah, Sunni and Shia, nature of Allah, prophets, angels, predestination and the afterlife)

2. *Islam: practices*

(The Five Pillars of Islam, the 10 Obligatory Acts, jihad and festivals)