

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES – CURRICULUM INTENT

## ASPIRE – CHALLENGE – ACHIEVE

The Religious Studies curriculum is designed and centred around our students. We recognise the importance of inclusive, rigorous and relevant content, which can help students develop acquire a better understanding of the role that different religions and cultures play in today’s pluralistic world. Adopting a thematic approach to our schemes of work allows students to apply, compare and contrast some of the world’s major beliefs, religious and secular, to some of the ‘Big Issues’ we are faced on a day to day basis.

Differentiated lessons and safe space within the classroom allow students to explore these issues and develop tolerance and respect for the communities in which we live. Fundamental to their understanding is their religious literacy, which is developed through structured key term and spelling tests, regular reading aloud and wider reading opportunities (particularly at Key Stage 4 and 5). Throughout all the Key Stages, Religious Studies provides students with the opportunity to debate and discuss thereby improving their ability to articulate verbally as well as enabling them to develop their extended writing skills.

The curriculum in Key Stage 3 supplies students with an initial understanding of the multicultural society in which we live and the key skills in which to discover more about the world and their individual place within this. From this early stage, we encourage students to be independent learners, both within and outside of the classroom environment. As students’ progress into Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5, they are given the opportunity to explore these bigger questions on a deeper level through the study of Philosophy and Ethics, sharpening critical thinking alongside developing a student’s ability to think and theorise through issues themselves; skills which are imperative to development later in life.

## RELIGIOUS STUDIES – CURRICULUM MAP

**Key** = Matching colours denote links between topics either in content or skills across Key Stages

|    |  |  |   |   |   |             |          |          |                  |
|----|--|--|---|---|---|-------------|----------|----------|------------------|
| 7  | What is Religious Studies?                               | Where do our beliefs come from?                        | What makes somewhere sacred?                                      | What makes a good religious leader?                                   | How should we live together?- The Island. |             |          |          |                  |
| 8  | Should we take care of the world?                        | How do we mark special events in our lives?            | Is Jesus still relevant today?                                    | How does R.S. fit into the world?                                     |   |             |          |          |                  |
| 9  | How does R.S. fit into the world?                        | Is war necessary? (GCSE Link)                          | Is it easy to make moral decisions?                               | How should we treat people? (GCSE Link)                               |   |             |          |          |                  |
| 10 | Christian Beliefs and Teachings                          | Relationships and Family                               | Muslim Beliefs and Teachings                                      | Religion, Peace and Conflict  |   |             |          |          |                  |
| 11 | Muslim Beliefs   | Muslim Practices                                       | Religion Peace and Conflict                                       | Dialogues between religious and non-religious groups                  | REVISION                                  | GCSE EXAMS  |          |          |                  |
| 12 | Philosophy: Philosophical Language and Thought           | Philosophy: Arguments for God’s existence              | Philosophy: God and the World                                     | DCT Insight   | DCT F/tions                               | DCT: Living | REVISION | AS EXAMS | DCT- Development |
|    | Ethics: Normative Ethical Theories: Religious approaches | Normative Ethical Theories                             | Applied Ethics  |   |   |             |          |          | DCT: Society     |
| 13 | DCT: Challenges  | Philosophy: Theological and Philosophical developments | Philosophy: Religious Language- Analogical, symbolic and negative | Philosophy: Religious Language- 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Developments |   | REVISION    | A2 EXAMS |          |                  |
|    |  | Ethics: Ethical Language.                              | Ethics: Significant Ideas   | Ethics: Development in Ethical Thought.                               |   |             |          |          |                  |