

Religious Studies intent

Question Understand Accept

- Religious Studies allows students to respectfully **question** the views of others and their own.
- Religious Studies provides students with a good **understanding** of the thoughts, values and practices of others.
- Religious Studies encourages students to **accept** people and the diverse communities in which we live in.

Overall:

The purpose of Religious Studies at St Mary's CE High School is to provide students with the tools to critically participate and reflect on the dynamics and the essence of society. It aims to educate young people in the development of religions and religious practices, as well as allowing them to explore and question philosophical and ethical viewpoints. It provides students with fundamental transferable skills of evaluation, analysis, communication, critical thinking and critical judgement. It encourages students to think beyond themselves and understand the world from a variety of views, building their character in the process. Through the exploration of ethical topics and questions concerning the ultimate nature of reality, Religious Studies allows students to consider concepts such as Right and Truth.

Skills

Throughout every lesson we have a range of skills that will develop students both academically and socially. Our curriculum is designed to draw on memory skills by recalling knowledge from lesson to lesson and year to year. Each lesson will require an element of comprehension through; religious text, sociological data or philosophical teachings. We use the text studied to teach students how to apply the beliefs of others to their practices and encourage students to introspect on their own application of the moral codes. We also allow students to analyse the text and the doctrine created by a variety of faiths and create their own justification for the purpose, usefulness and relevance of the teachings today.

Year 7:

Religious Studies in Year 7 will focus on the practicalities and basic teachings of the religions we see in the UK today. We aim to provide students with a range of foundation skills so that they can meaningfully contribute to their learning within Religious Studies. Students will explore philosophical questions concerning the ultimate nature of reality. They will ask questions such as: why are we

here? Is there a purpose to life? What happens when we die? In addition, they will analyse arguments for the existence of God. A project looking at whether Christians should be greener than anyone else will be undertaken with a view to broaden their understanding of social issues in their local area. Students will study core Christian values found within the Gospels with focus on Agape love and the actions of Jesus with the aim of analysing what it means to be a Christian in modern Britain today.

Year 8:

Religious Studies in Year 8 will engage students in the study of Judaism and Islam to further build on what was taught in Year 7 and to create a foundation for GCSE study. Students will study the origin and development of Judaism and Islam as well as the moral implications of being a follower in today's society. They will be able to compare and contrast teachings found in the Bible, Torah and Quran. Students will study the importance of Abraham and how he founded Jewish, Christian and Islamic beliefs. These topics will equip students with the skills to analyse religion through a thematic approach. The unit 'Can People Ever Make a Change,' will focus on inspirational role models such as Maya Angelou, Beyoncé, The Combahee River Collective, James Baldwin, Martin Luther King and Malcolm X. Students will be given an opportunity to recognise who has influenced them in their lives in a positive way.

GCSE:

GCSE Religious Studies covers in depth study of Christianity and Islam and four contemporary ethical themes. Students will be challenged with questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling them to develop their own attitudes towards religious issues. Students will also gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture. They will develop analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership and research skills. All these skills will help prepare them for further study. A number of ethical topics covered in GCSE RS enable student to grapple with issues surrounding social justice, for example crime; punishment; worldwide poverty; charity work. GCSE RS builds students character by providing them with regular opportunities to explore, debate and discuss religious and ethical issues which are encountered within our local community and the wider world.

A level:

A level Religious Studies will build on the knowledge, understanding and skills established at GCSE. Students will be introduced to an advanced approach to Religious Studies, and will develop a deeper understanding of the beliefs, teachings and philosophy. The course will develop their interest in a rigorous study of religion and belief and relate it to the wider world; this is explored through ancient philosophical and theological theories to modern day applications and developments. A level RS develops an understanding and appreciation of religious thought and its contribution to individuals, communities and societies. Through this study students will adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion, reflect on and develop their own values, opinions and attitudes in the light of their study.