

Key stage 3 curriculum and assessment

At Key Stage Three, students' will investigate the foundations, important narratives and leadership of the main world faiths.

and non-religious beliefs and/or practices, progressively building on knowledge so students can develop their understanding and ability to evaluate and make informed judgements.

KS3 Curriculum:

| | Unit 1 | Unit 2 | Unit 3 | Unit 4 | | Unit 5 |
|--------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| Year 7 | What are the stories of the Prophets? | What are the stories of the prophets? | Who was Jesus? | Who was the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)? | Who are the Gurus? | Who was the Buddha? |
| Year 8 | Hindu Dharma - Beliefs. | Jewish beliefs. | Christian beliefs and practices. | Islamic beliefs and practices. | Arguments for the existence of God. | The problem of evil and suffering. |
| Year 9 | How do we make ethical decisions? | How do we make ethical decisions? | Does religion cause conflict? | Does religion cause conflict? | Exploring ultimate questions. What is real? | Exploring ultimate questions. What is real? |

Key stage 4 curriculum and assessment

We study the AQA GCSE Religious Studies specification

Topics studied:

| Exam | Topics | Content summary | Length | Value |
|---------|--|---|-----------------|-------|
| Paper 1 | The study of religion: beliefs, teachings and practices. | Christianity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Beliefs and teachings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The nature of God ○ Creation ○ Afterlife | 1 hr 45 minutes | 50% |

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|----------------|------------------|--|-----------------|-----|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jesus as the Son of God ● Practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Worship ○ Festivals ○ Role of the Church in the local and worldwide community <p>Islam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beliefs and teachings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nature of God • Afterlife • Prophets • Authority of Holy Books | | |
| Paper 2 | Thematic Studies | <p>Theme A: Relationships and Families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexuality • Contraception • Marriage and divorce • Families • Gender equality <p>Theme B: Religion and Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethical and religious arguments surrounding abortion, euthanasia and animal experimentation. • Origins of the universe. • Value of human life. <p>Theme D: Religion, Peace and Conflict</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religion and violence • Terrorism • War and Just War Theory • Religion and belief in 21st century conflict. <p>Theme E: Religion, Crime and Punishment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Causes of crime • Contrasting beliefs and ethical arguments surrounding corporal punishment. • Punishment • Death penalty • Forgiveness | 1 hr 45 minutes | 50% |

By the end of KS4, students will have knowledge and understanding of different beliefs and attitudes to religious and non-religious issues in contemporary British society. They will be able to understand and evaluate the impact belief has on people's actions in both their religious practices and interactions with others. Students will study two key areas, the beliefs and practices of two religious' groups (Christianity and Islam) and a variety of

attitudes to contemporary issues in the Thematic Studies paper. They should be able to evaluate the impact these arguments have on modern society.

Students will produce well-developed written responses which draw on clear understanding of religious and non-religious beliefs and be able to produce evaluative answers with a coherent argument running through them. Students will be expected to show their understanding of religion through the application of teachings and sources of authority. They will be able to come to justified conclusions and express their own reasoning about a variety of beliefs and ethical arguments.

Key stage 5 curriculum and assessment

We study the AQA A Level Philosophy specification

Topics studied include:

| Paper | Topic | Assessment Style | A Level Weighting |
|--|---|---|--------------------------|
| Paper 1 | Epistemology and Moral Philosophy | 3hr exam Section A: 5 questions on Epistemology Section B: 5 questions on Moral Philosophy | 50% |
| Paper 2 | The Metaphysics of God and the Metaphysics of Mind | 3hr exam Section A: 5 questions on the Metaphysics of God Section B: 5 questions on the Metaphysics of Mind | 50% |
| *All exams to be sat at the end of the 2-year course * | | | |

At KS5, students will gain a firm foundation in Philosophy. They will engage with the key concepts and methods of philosophy in a secular context. Students will learn express their understanding of these key concepts in clear and precise written answers. They will engage with complex texts and analyse the concepts and arguments presented by key thinkers and construct their own arguments and evaluation of those theories.

The A-level is made up of 4 topic areas: Epistemology, Moral philosophy, the Metaphysics of God and the Metaphysics of mind.