

WHAT WE AIM TO ACHIEVE

You will learn to:

- Argue a case in speaking and writing.
- Give reasons for your answers backed up with explanations and examples.
- Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of religion and belief through a study of at least two religions.
- Identify beliefs, practices, sources of authority, similarities and differences.
- Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief, including their significance and influence.
- Appreciate the views of others.
- Stay up to date with current moral and religious issues in the news.

COURSE OUTLINE

You will be studying two Components over the two-year GCSE course.

- Component 1 - The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices of Christians and Jews.
- Component 2 - Thematic studies consisting of four themes:
 - ◇ Theme A: Relationships and families (including sex, marriage and divorce, families and gender equality).
 - ◇ Theme B: Religion and life (including Big Bang Theory, evolution, abortion, euthanasia and animal experimentation).
 - ◇ Theme C: Religion, peace and conflict (including violence, terrorism, war, pacifism, forgiveness and reconciliation).
 - ◇ Theme D: Religion, crime and punishment (including crime and its causes, aims of punishment, treatment of prisoners, capital punishment).

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The course will be assessed by two written papers. Each paper lasts for 1 hour 45 minutes and equates to 50% of the total GCSE marks. There is a single tier of assessment covering grades 1 to 9. There will be short open questions, open response and extended writing questions.

WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED?

Religious Studies is an interesting and challenging subject at GCSE requiring good reading and writing skills. The key skills needed for this include the ability to ask questions and give answers that are explained in detail and backed-up with examples. You must have an interest in religious, moral and ethical issues and the ways in which different individuals will respond to them. The skills developed in Religious Studies will be extremely useful in any future education or career.