



'Religious Studies' Scheme of Learning Overview

Year 7

	Unit and purpose	Knowledge	Skills
Term 1	<p>'Lost'</p> <p>Students engage with a thought experiment in which they are stranded on a desert island and are faced with a series of ethical questions on how best to construct a harmonious and functioning society from scratch.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human rights • Democracy and Dictatorship • Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs • Multiculturalism • Just War • Freedom of speech • Treatment of criminals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of thought experiments • How to debate • Use of PEE paragraphs • Constructing arguments • Empathetic thinking
Term 2	<p>'Islamic Expression'</p> <p>Students explore how religious believers express their beliefs and practices all over the world, with a particular focus on Islam and Muslims.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religious symbols • Religious art • Religious myths • Religious dress • Religious ceremonies and rituals • Religious mysticism • Religious food 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self reflection • Constructing persuasive counter arguments • Distinguishing between opinion and argument • Explain with evidence a religious belief
Term 3	<p>'Who Am I?'</p> <p>Students explore their sense of 'Personal Identity' through self reflection and asking themselves what they value, how they make decisions and how they should successfully navigate our changing world.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does it mean to be human? • Nature Vs Nurture • Gender (feminism and masculinity) • Free will and determinism • Am I more than a physical body? • What does it mean to be British? • What will I become? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self reflection • How to evaluate arguments • Expressing values/identity • Meta cognition



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Year 8

	Unit and purpose	Knowledge	Skills
Term 1	<p>'Buddhism'</p> <p>Students are introduced to Buddhism, one of the world's major faiths. They will explore the Enlightenment journey of Siddhartha on his way to becoming The Buddha and the legacy and teachings that he left the world.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The spiritual journey of Siddhartha Gautama • The Four Noble Truths • Karma • Rebirth • Meditation • The Middle Way • Enlightenment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mindfulness and meditation • Use of PEE paragraphs • Constructing arguments • Empathetic thinking
Term 2	<p>'Christianity and Hope'</p> <p>Students will explore Christianity and how its core principles relate to the overarching theme of 'hope'.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saviours and superheroes • Salvation • Sin • The Bible and key parables • Heaven, Hell and the afterlife • Prayer • Charity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self reflection • Use of religious scripture in arguments • Empathetic thinking • Analysis of religious scripture
Term 3	<p>'Critical Thinking'</p> <p>Students are given some of the tools and strategies to help them become critical thinkers. They will then engage with a number of ethical areas where they will apply their new critical thinking skills to solve problems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to become a critical thinker • Free speech • Racism • Fake news • Humanism • Animal welfare • God 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self reflection • Critical thinking • Meta cognition • How to spot fake news • Constructing arguments • Engaging with thought experiments



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