

‘To know what others believe is essential to sharing what you know is true’

Subject introduction:

Ideas, texts, beliefs and actions: these are at the heart of RE. Studying RE gives you an insight into humanity’s history and its present, and develops key skills such as critical thinking and analytical writing.

Big questions:

Whether you consider yourself a religious person or not, or whether you think religion has played a positive or negative role in history, it is a fact that from the beginning of time, humans have engaged in activities that we now call religion, such as worship, prayer, and rituals marking important life passages. Moreover, religions have always asked fundamental questions, such as: What is the true meaning of life? What happens to us after death? How do we explain human suffering and injustices?

Human understanding:

The answers different religious traditions give to these important questions are many and varied. But the questions themselves are ones with which humans throughout time have grappled, and probably will continue to grapple with into the indefinite future. Therefore, one of the reasons that you will study RE is simply to deepen your understanding of others and yourself.

Cultural influence:

We study religion in order to learn more about how different aspects of human life – politics, science, literature, art, law, economics – have been and continue to be shaped by changing religious ideas of, for example: good and evil, images of the deity and the divine, salvation and punishment etc. By studying different religious doctrines, rituals, narratives and scripture, we can also come to understand how different communities of believers – past and present, East and West – have used their religious traditions to shape, sustain, transform themselves.

Global insight:

More than ever before, the world we live in is both multicultural and global. We no longer need to travel across the ocean to visit a Hindu temple or an Islamic mosque or to meet a Buddhist or Sikh. The chances are that you can find a temple or mosque within a few miles of where you live, and it is almost certain that you will meet someone from any and all of these religious traditions here in the UK. This makes it even more essential that we cultivate our ability to understand and interpret other people’s religious traditions in an informed and accurately represented way.

Interdisciplinary:

Finally, studying RE is inherently multidisciplinary. This is reflected in our curriculum here at St Wilfrid’s, which draws upon other humanities and the social sciences, such as history, literature, philosophy and sociology. Studying RE therefore provides you with an opportunity to learn about a range of disciplinary approaches, and, even more importantly, the connections amongst them. In this way studying RE invites you to think in a way that is integral to understanding the world and your place in it.

Religious literacy:

Literacy in religious thinking and practices is a key skill, with the potential to foster respect and tolerance based on knowledge rather than assumption. Whether you come to the subject with a particular faith perspective or none, there will be much that will engage you intellectually, reinforce and deepen your current knowledge of religions and worldviews and perhaps even challenge your assumptions.

Curriculum:

Modules to be covered in the year	Assessment
<p>How can exploring faith enable me to understand my community? This unit enables students to understand the role and importance of faith within communities but also how they themselves can contribute to their local and wider community.</p> <p>What does it mean to be human? This unit provides students with the opportunity to explore the value of human life and the responsibility they hold to their communities and future generations.</p> <p>Where in the world is Christianity? This unit provides students with the knowledge and understanding of the diverse practices and beliefs of Christianity in the modern world. It is important that students see Christianity as a globally 'lived' religion.</p> <p>What would be the impact on the world if the key festival of Easter did not take place? Within this unit students explore the importance of the events of Holy Week by referring to core scripture and beliefs; whilst recognising the practices held by Christians today.</p> <p>Where do people go to find affirmation of faith? This unit explores the role of pilgrimage in religion and the different ways it is practised. Students will also cover the importance of other religious acts of affirmation such as confirmation.</p> <p>Is Death the end? In this unit students will investigate various religious and non-religious beliefs to the issues surrounding life after death. Students also examine the impact that these beliefs have on the individual believer. Students will also be given the opportunity to articulate their own beliefs and their reasoning for maintaining such beliefs.</p>	<p>Students are assessed in a variety of ways in RE. They are assessed on their oral contributions and through written work completed both in the classroom and at home.</p> <p>Within each unit of work students are assessed on their baseline understanding, their recognition of key teachings, beliefs and practices, their core knowledge and deeper understanding of ideas, concepts and beliefs and how these connect to the topic with wider learning demonstrates what they think, know and believe.</p>

Homework:

Homework is set regularly and appropriately to build on learning from lessons or is used to prepare students for the next lesson. Homework in KS3 has a strong emphasis on developing literacy skills; reading, making inferences, interpreting, spelling, vocabulary and comprehension.

Enrichment activities:

Students are regularly exposed to experiential learning, where we invite guest speakers into the academy or through TEAMS sessions and students can ask questions and gain an insight into the actions and viewpoints of those people. We want students to recognise that religions and worldviews are 'lived' and therefore speaking to representatives of these provide them with first hand experiences that they can apply to their learning and beyond.

Resources:

The department uses the Collins Key Stage 3 World Religions textbooks and revision guides in class, along with an array of resources developed within the Understanding Christianity and Illuminating Pathways framework. Other resources are uploaded onto our online learning platform Firefly which we regularly encourage our students to visit.