



Achieving Excellence Together

GCSE Religious Studies

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Why study GCSE Religious Studies?

Results for the previous cohorts have been excellent. Students studying this subject have also enjoyed having the time and opportunity to develop informed ideas and opinions of their own.

What does the course involve?

1: A study of the **Beliefs, Teaching and Practices** of **two** of the six major faiths of the UK (Christianity/Catholic Christianity/Islam/Judaism/Buddhism/Sikhism)

2: A study of four units from the Thematic Studies component, comprising either four **Philosophy and Ethics** topics.

- i) Relationships and the nature, purpose and make up of Families
- ii) Religion and Life (its value and treatment), abortion, euthanasia and animal cruelty
- iii) The Philosophical arguments for the existence of God and Divine Revelation
- iv) Religion Peace and Conflict, Violence, Weapons of Mass Destruction and pacifism
- v) Crime and Punishment, Corporal and Capital Punishment, forgiveness and reconciliation
- vi) Human Rights and Social Justice, the status of women, freedom of religion and the use of wealth

Or two Philosophy and Ethics and Two **Textual Studies** units

- i) St Mark's gospel, the life of Jesus
- ii) St Mark's gospel as a source of religious and Moral Truth

It is important that students are prepared to express their own views as well as analyse and evaluate the views of others.

How will I be assessed?

Throughout the course there will be regular assessments, leading to the two exams, one on each of the two components each lasting 1 hr and 45 mins

What are my progression routes?

The skills acquired in this subject are highly transferable. Natural progression routes are to A level RS, Philosophy, Law, Sociology, Psychology, Politics and History. An understanding of faith can be helpful in any career which deals with people and their lives, such as Teaching, Law, Social Work or any of the Caring Professions.