

Core Subject: Religious Studies

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Religious Studies allows students to explore and engage with the big ultimate questions in life e.g. Why are we here? Where did the universe come from? Is human life special and above animal life? During the GCSE course students have the opportunity to explore how different worldviews respond to these questions. Throughout our program of study, we examine different Christian perspectives, Jewish and Humanist views. Students are also encouraged to formulate their own carefully considered opinions and judgements about the important moral and theological issues we study. By the end of the course students are able to express the views of others, identify how beliefs have an impact on communities and are also able to support their views and views of others with reasons and evidence. GCSE RS equips our students with the skills of understanding, empathy, reasoning, analysis, good communication and debating.

Do I need to have certain qualities/skills to do this subject?

GCSE RS is suitable and accessible for all. Students must come to lessons with an open mind and be prepared to be respectful towards the opinions and practices of others. Confidence and a desire to express their own opinions with reasons is desirable. GCSE Religious Studies is a rigorous academic program of study which challenges students to think.



We follow the Eduqas Religious Studies route b course.

What will I learn?

Component 1	Component 2	Component 3
Foundational Catholic Theology	Applied Catholic Theology	Study of a World Faith - Judaism
90-minute exam	90-minute exam	60-minute exam
37.5% of final grade	37.5% of final grade	25% of final grade
Topics include: Unit 1 – Origins and Meaning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where did the Universe come from? How did life begin? Is life sacred? Is abortion ever right? Should we care for others and our planet? Unit 2 – Good and Evil <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why is there evil in the world? What is God like for Christians? Is the Christian God to blame for evil and suffering? How can we respond to suffering? 	Topics include: Unit 3 – Life and death <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What happens when we die? Why believe in an afterlife? Should euthanasia be allowed? What gives people comfort when dealing with death? Unit 4 – Sin and forgiveness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the aims of different punishments in society? Is the death penalty right? Is forgiveness always possible? What is the paschal mystery and how does it impact Christians? 	Topics include: Unit 5 – Jewish beliefs and teachings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What do Jewish people believe about God? What do Jewish people believe about life after death and the Messiah? What does Judaism teach about the sanctity of life? Unit 6 – Jewish practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is prayer like in Judaism? What are the different festivals in Judaism? What are the laws regarding food in Judaism? What are the different rites of passage in Judaism?

Does this lead to a qualification?

Yes, this is single GCSE award.

How is this qualification assessed?

Students sit three examination papers at the end of year 11.

What can I do with this qualification?

Further studies at Sixth Form: AS & A2 Religious Studies in Philosophy, Psychology and Sociology of Religion and Ethics. Any course in Humanities or Social Sciences including: English, History, Sociology, Psychology and Law.

Careers: Social work, Police, Teaching, Nurse, Doctor, Midwife, Nursery Nurse, Journalism, Advertising, Media, Civil Service, Accountancy, Law, Care Worker, Youth work, Military forces.