



Religious Studies

Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11)

Every student studies core Religious Studies. Students can also choose GCSE Religious Studies as an option. Parents and carers have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of Religious Education.

Core Religious Studies

Qualification Taught to all students. Parents and carers have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of Religious Education.

Unit	Topic	What students learn	Term
Year 10			
Unit 1	Religion through the elements	Earth: Shinto and animism, and Christian beliefs about the end of the world; Water: Taoism and the Ganges at Varanasi; Air: the Holy Spirit; Fire: Zoroastrian worship.	Autumn 1 – Autumn 2
Unit 2	What does it mean to be good?	What a good life is, the signs of human flourishing, and how we can develop our lives to flourish; designing the perfect role model.	Spring 1 – Spring 2
Unit 3	How do people make decisions about medical ethics?	What medical ethics is; active and passive euthanasia and the euthanasia debate; sanctity of life, autonomy, situation ethics and utilitarianism.	Spring 2 – Summer 1
Year 11			
Unit 1	How do we create a good society?	What makes a society good and the idea of utopia; how we act to make society better, including the Good Samaritan; case studies; how we avoid doing harm and encourage others to do good.	Autumn 1 – Autumn 2
Unit 2	How should we punish those who commit crimes?	Why we have laws and what crime is; types of punishment and how effective they are, including prison and the death penalty; designing and justifying a punishment system.	Spring 1 – Spring 2

GCSE Religious Studies

Qualification AQA GCSE Religious Studies A (8062).

Students study Christianity and Judaism alongside religious, philosophical and ethical themes.

Unit	Topic	What students learn	Term
Year 10			
Unit 1	Judaism: beliefs and teachings	An introduction to GCSE RS; the nature of God and the Shekinah; life after death; the covenants with Abraham and Moses and the role of prophets; the Messiah; the mitzvot, pikuach nefesh and key moral teachings such as justice and healing the world; practice paper.	Autumn 1

Unit	Topic	What students learn	Term
Unit 2	Christianity: beliefs and teachings	The nature of God and the Trinity; the creation accounts in Genesis and different interpretations of the Bible; the problem of evil; the incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension; sin, salvation and atonement; assessment.	Autumn 2
Unit 3	Judaism: practices	The synagogue and public and private worship; Shabbat at home and in the synagogue; the Tenakh and Talmud; rituals including Brit Milah, Bar and Bat Mitzvah, marriage and funerals; kosher food laws; festivals including Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Pesach; assessment.	Autumn 2 / Spring 1
Unit 4	Christianity: practices	Forms of worship and prayer; the sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion; pilgrimage; the celebrations of Christmas and Easter; the Church in the local community; mission and the worldwide Church, including persecution and charity; practice paper.	Spring 1 / Spring 2 / Summer 1
Unit 5	Theme A: Relationships and families	Religious and non-religious teachings on human sexuality, cohabitation and contraception; the purpose of marriage, divorce and remarriage; the nature and purpose of the family; gender equality in the family and the Church; practice paper.	Summer 1