

Religious Studies

Learning Aims and Curriculum Intent:

Content - A comparison of the Dharmic religions and how they have developed. Putting different beliefs into context and how they have evolved over time, such as beliefs about God and the Caste System. An exploration of key questions such as what does it mean to be human, how should people behave and what happens when we die.

Skills - Students will develop their ability to write a detailed and persuasive argument, using the PEEL structure. They will hypothesise how beliefs influence a person's life. They will be able to communicate their ideas verbally and listen to and reflect on other voices in discussion, sometimes being willing to suspend their own commitments in order to understand other perspectives.

Term	Content, Key Questions and Knowledge	Skills	Assessment
Michaelmas	 What is religion's place in the world? How do we define religion? The main features of a religion. What are some of the main beliefs held by religions? How do people describe God? How has this changed over time? Does God have to be male? Should we even try to describe God at all? Why do people follow religions? How do they impact a person's life? Could these things be achieved without following a religion? How does religion relate to truth? What different forms can 'truth' take? Can all religions be true? What about people who don't believe in religion? How does Humanism provide people with a sense of meaning? Hinduism – How do our actions affect our futures? What do Hindus believe about God? The Trimurti and other deities in Hinduism. What does it mean to be human in Hinduism? The Atman and how it links to Brahman. What happens when a Hindu dies. The cycle of samsara. How do our actions affect our futures? The role of karma and dharma in the life of a Hindu. How does the Caste System link to Hindu beliefs? Reasoning behind the Caste System. Modern views on the Caste System and how it could lead to discrimination. 	Developing points with supporting evidence Analysing stories to identify different possible interpretations and meanings Critically deconstructing concepts and the evidence supporting them Hypothesising about how someone's beliefs might influence a person's life	Retrieval quizzes to build knowledge acquisition and understanding An assessment on the nature and place of religion in the world An assessment on Hindu beliefs and how they influence a person's life
Lent	 Buddhism – How do we overcome suffering? What did Siddhartha's life teach him about suffering? Siddhartha's upbringing in the palace, the impact the Four Sights had on him. Siddhartha's discovery of the Middle Way What is the truth about suffering according to Buddhists? The Four Noble Truths – The inevitability of suffering, the cause of suffering and the cure for suffering How can Buddhists reduce suffering? The Noble Eightfold Path, including the Five Moral Precepts. The role of meditation. What is the ultimate aim of Buddhism? The concept of rebirth in Buddhism. The Tibetan Wheel of Life. Enlightenment 	Analysing stories to identify different possible interpretations and meanings Reflecting on how beliefs and practices would connect to a person's life	Retrieval quizzes to build knowledge acquisition and understanding Diary entry on how following Buddhist beliefs would influence a person's life
Trinity	 Sikhism – How do Sikhs put their beliefs into action? What can we learn about the main beliefs of Sikhism from the life of Guru Nanak? An overview of Guru Nanak's life with a particular focus on his temporary disappearance What can we learn about the main beliefs of Sikhism from the formation of the Khalsa. An exploration of the story of Guru Gobind Singh and the formation of the Khalsa. What is the significance of the Five Ks. What the Five Ks are, what they represent (linking to beliefs) and whether all Sikhs should wear them. How do Sikhs put their beliefs into action today? The features of the Gurdwara and how they link to Sikh beliefs. The role of the langar. Different types of sewa. 	Analysing stories to identify different possible interpretations and meanings Reflecting on how beliefs and practices would connect to a person's life Researching and debating arguments for and against religious practices	Retrieval quizzes to build knowledge acquisition and understanding

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What does consolidation look like in this subject?	Summarising theories and concepts in your own words. Dual coding of theories and concepts by adding images. Regular retrieval practice of key terms. Deepening understanding of concepts and theories by watching relevant videos.		
Examples of Homework	Researching and presenting a Hindu deity; Making connections between Hindu concepts; Writing a PEEL based argument about whether Sikhs should have to wear the 5Ks; Creating a piece of artwork or an analogy to represent Nirvana.		
Key terminology	Religion; Truth; Belief; Theist; Monotheist; Polytheist; Atheist; Humanism; Deity; Trimurti, Atman, Brahman; Dharma; Karma; Samsara; Moksha; Reincarnation; The Caste System; Middle Way; Ascetic; Meditation; Enlightenment; Nirvana; Precepts; Rebirth; The Noble Eightfold Path; The Four Noble Truths; Khalsa; Langar; Sewa; Gurdwara; Guru Granth Sahib		
Super-curricular enrichment and scholarly extension	 Read: Buddha by Osanu Tezuka Watch: Little Buddha, BBC - My Life, My Religion, Visit: The British Museum, The London Buddhist Centre, A Gurdwara 		
Useful websites	https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/Hinduism/353249 https://www.buddhanet.net/e-learning/buddhism/index.htm https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zyqnvcw/articles/znpq47h		
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