



The Holy Trinity Church of England Secondary School

Department details Religious Studies

DEPARTMENT : Religious Studies

“Religious Education no longer strives to induct children into the Christian faith or offer a superficial religiously-oriented course of multicultural studies. Instead it provides an intellectually grounded, philosophically and theologically astute exploration of ultimate questions of meaning, purpose and truth that have direct relevance to British society. “ (Andrew Wright – writing in the Telegraph)

Religious Studies is a core subject at Holy Trinity. It is a strong department with a team of 6 subject specialists. The subject is amongst the highest achieving departments in the school and consistently achieves results which are above national averages. We share a strong vision of education for religious literacy and spiritual growth and strive continuously to provide an education which meets the needs of individual children – both academically and in terms of their cultural and religious identity. We encourage high level, respectful discussion which is inclusive of the rich diversity of beliefs and traditions this school is blessed with. It is our aim for every child to understand the Christian beliefs and way of life, not just by experiencing it through the school community but also by understanding it through rigorous learning.

STAFFING STRUCTURE and who's who

The department consists of six specialist teachers. Four are full time, including the Lead Advanced Skills teacher and the Head of Law and EPQ.

Courses and Exam Boards

In Year 7,8 and 9 all pupils study Religious Studies for 1 hour a week. There is an umbrella theme for each of these years which focuses mainly on Christianity but also includes some comparison with other faiths. In addition, one or two religions are studied systematically.

The theme for Year 7 is ‘Symbol and Story’ in religion and Hinduism is studied in the Summer Term. In Years 8 the theme is Community and Islam is studied in the Spring Term and Sikhism in the Summer Term. In Year 9, the theme is ‘An introduction to philosophy and ethics of religion’ and Buddhism is studied in the Spring Term.

At Key Stage 4, all pupils take the GCSE. We have, until recently, offered AS Religious Studies to the gifted and talented in this subject, which was a hugely popular pathway, but with the demise of the AS, this is being phased out. For the forthcoming GCSE, we plan to offer Islam as the 2nd religion in addition to a study of Christianity. This is the largest of the minority faith groups in the school.

At Key Stage 5, we currently follow the AQA exam board offering Religious Ethics and Religion, Science and Philosophy to AS, and Ethics and Philosophy of Religion at A2. There is one teaching group with 5 hours a fortnight for each of the two courses.

Accommodation; Events and Activities; Current links with other depts.

The RS department is housed in a suite of 5 rooms, comprising of: 4 general classrooms (one of which is equipped with 15 computers), one smaller teaching room. All classrooms have a data projector, in-built sound system and interactive whiteboards. The RS office is in the same area and has an excellent collection of resources.

In addition to class based learning, the year 7s visit a local church in the Summer Term, the Year 10 have an optional trip to the Wintershall open-air production of the 'Life of Christ' and the Sixth form attend Philosophy and Ethics 6th form conferences in London.