

WORLD AFFAIRS

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

GCSE RESULTS 2017 – 86% A - C grades
15% above National Average results*



Aims:

Religious Studies [RS] is a relevant, contemporary and popular subject that aims to encourage all students to think in new and innovative ways about the big questions in life. It seeks to promote understanding of different religious beliefs and how they affect the lives of believers and to equip students for life in our multi-faith society.

Resources:

The RS rooms are equipped with interactive whiteboards which allow access to internet resources and multi-media. The department makes use of relevant news articles, documentaries and debates to engage students in contemporary religious and moral issues and has a bank of DVDs, artefacts and textbooks to enhance the learning experience.

Coursework/Homework:

Homework can take a variety of forms, most often, discussion with parents and family. There is no coursework in the GCSE, the specification is 100% examination so the students are required to sit end of module assessment tests to support their revision programme and examination technique development.

Special Educational Needs:

The department encourages all students to achieve their best. It is supported with Teaching Assistants and tasks are differentiated as appropriate.

Assessment:

- Students are assessed on their oral and written work throughout each lesson and achievements are recognised with an achievement points, calls and postcards home.
- Formal assessment is based on specific pieces of written work, marked with reference to NC Levels or GCSE grades, which recognise their knowledge of relevant facts, their understanding of the topic, their personal opinions supported with clear reasons and their use of empathy.

• KEY STAGE 3: Years 7 – 9**Year 7**

- What is Christianity?
- Religion and music
- Religion and Art
- How do religious beliefs affect actions? - Nicky Cruz
- What is Islam?

• Year 8

- Why is Jesus important to Christians?
- How do religious beliefs affect actions? – Martin Luther King
- Why is Muhammad important to Muslims?
- Justice – personal, social, global

- **Year 9**
- Moral evil – The Holocaust – Can God exist in the light of evil and suffering?
- GCSE Religious Studies – see below

KEY STAGE 4: Years 10 - 11

Any students not choosing RS as an option subject, and therefore not taking a GCSE examination, will have the core curriculum delivered on a termly basis, focusing on discussion of the main topics covered in the GCSE specification and personal reflection.

Students must choose the full GCSE Option course if they want to gain an RS qualification.

We study the Edexcel Specification B. It covers contemporary issues such as abortion, euthanasia, homosexuality and conflict. There is a strong focus on group and class discussion where students learn to formulate and express their opinions. Regular revision from the outset is expected and revision homework set throughout Years 10 and 11.

Paper 1 – Christianity and Ethics

Belief in God

- How can God exist when there is suffering and evil?
- Who or what created the universe?
- How can God exist if prayers are not answered?

Marriage and Family life

- Why do people get married?
- Is contraception a way of 'playing God'?
- Why is sex an important part of marriage?

Living a Christian Life

- Why is giving money and help to the poor so important to Christians?
- Why is the Church persecuted around the world?

Matters of Life and Death

- Is there life after death?
- Should you be allowed to *choose* when you die?
- Is abortion the same as murder?

Belief in Allah

- What is the role of angels in the Islamic faith?
- How can Allah exist when there is suffering and evil?
- Who or what created the universe?
- What is the nature of Allah?

Peace and conflict

- Is it ever right to fight?
- How do Muslims work to prevent terrorism?
- What is greater and lesser Jihad?

Living a Muslim life

- What is the difference between Sunni and Shi'a faith?
- Why is it very important to Muslims to help the poor and needy?

Crime and punishment

- Why do we have laws?
- Is capital punishment justified?
- Why is justice important to Muslims?
- Why is forgiveness so important to Muslims?

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