

KS3 - Religious Education

Year 7 Content

Autumn Term

The term starts with a unit considering the nature of belief and looking at different reasons why someone may be a theist, atheist or agnostic. Students consider the idea of symbols and symbolism in religion. We will then investigate Hindu ideas about God and worship, considering the symbolism in the imagery of Hindu deities. The term ends with students completing their own designs based on Hindu deities.

The second half of the term focuses on the life and influence of Jesus. We will focus on parables and teachings for living a moral life and consider miracle stories.

Spring Term

This term centres on the topic of identity. Students will consider what factors have shaped their own identity before considering a number of rites of passage from Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism. These include the Hindu baby naming ceremony, Baptism, Bar mitzvah and Bat mitzvah, Confirmation and Marriage (from the perspective of different faiths). Students are encouraged to consider the symbolism present in these ceremonies and to compare and contrast. They are also encouraged to recognise differences within religions.

The second half of the term focuses on creation stories from different faiths and considers arguments for the existence of God, such as the Design and First Cause arguments. We then consider whether it is possible to accept a scientific understanding of the universe and still be a theist.

Summer Term

This term the students will focus on the topic of Community. Students will consider the purpose of communities and consider communities to which they belong. They will examine key features of religious communities such as:

- Leadership - students will consider the role of religious leaders
- Places of worship - students will consider features of and the role of places of worship, including churches, mosques and gurdwaras - students have opportunities to visit places of worship
- Festivals - students teach each other about different religious festivals from major world religions at a festival fair activity
- Prayer
- Religious clothing and other symbols
- They will also consider how belief affects daily life

Year 8 Content

Autumn Term

The focus of this term is the environment. Students consider what the environment is and the problems it is facing. They will look at the concept of Stewardship and the teachings about it in scripture. They will also look at religious organisations that exemplify stewardship. Students then focus on the treatment of animals and consider various ethical issues concerning animal rights and how religious teachings may assist us in addressing these issues. Students will then look at the concept of eating meat and consider religious laws and practices around the issue of eating meat, including the ideas of kosher and halal foods and also the Hindu teaching on ahimsa and how it is linked to the topic.

The second half of the term is dedicated to how we treat people. It will include teachings from all major world religions about respect, tolerance and forgiveness. Students will also consider the idea of justice which links in to concepts of karma and God's judgment.

Spring Term

Students look at the concept of pilgrimage and investigate key places of pilgrimage such as Lourdes, the River Ganges and the Western Wall. Students consider reasons why people go on pilgrimages and even visit a local place of pilgrimage, St Alban's Abbey. They then go on to examine Hajj in detail and the impact it may have on Muslims.

In the second half of the term, students focus on the city of Jerusalem and view it from Jewish, Christian and Muslim perspectives. They will consider historical and recent examples of conflict and consider whether it is possible for people to co-exist peacefully.

Summer Term

Students focus on inspirational people. They consider the qualities they admire in role models and then examine key figures that exemplify these such as Corrie Ten Boom, Martin Luther King Jr, Gandhi, and Mother Theresa. They consider the influence that religion had on these individuals and the influence these individuals have had on society. Students will also consider the importance of key religious figures such as Muhammad, Guru Nanak etc

In the second half of the term, students examine the key beliefs and teachings of Buddhism, including the story of Siddhartha Gautama, the four noble truths, the eightfold path and the five precepts.

Year 9 Content

This year, students will follow a scheme of work based on the AQA GCSE Religion and Citizenship course. This encourages them to deepen their understanding of major world religions and to consider their own responses to relevant issues facing them as young people.

Autumn Term

Students examine the topic of Peace and Conflict. They will consider the reasons why people go to war and whether war can ever be justified. This includes considering Aquinas' Just War theory and comparative ideas from other faiths. They will look at the impact of war and consider the concepts of forgiveness and reconciliation, with reference to case studies such as Eric Lomax and Gordon Wilson. Students will also examine the concept of terrorism and consider the link it has to religion and its impact.

Students will also consider our national identity. They will consider the ever-evolving nature of British culture and consider multiculturalism and diversity in the UK. They look at immigration and asylum and the benefits and concerns they present

In the second half of the term, students consider the world of work. They consider different careers and routes into work, including exploring their own options. Students also consider religious teachings surrounding work and the idea of volunteering. They will also consider topics such as the minimum wage and employment rights.

Spring Term

Students look at the topic of human rights. They consider the history of human rights including the establishment of the UDHR and examine different rights such as freedom of speech and the freedom to take part in elections. They research human rights violations in the news and look at groups and individuals who stand up for the fights of others, such as Amnesty International.

In the second half of the term, students consider the topic of crime and punishment. They will consider religious teachings on the topic, different types of crime and why people commit crime. They will then examine the different aims of punishment and various methods of punishment in the UK. They will look at the role of the police and law courts before then examining how the laws are made in the UK.

Summer Term

Students will look at the topic of drugs and religious teachings about drugs, including alcohol, including the Sanctity of Life teaching and religious organisations who help rehabilitate addicts.

Assessment

Key Stage 3 students are assessed every half term at the end of each topic.

