

Key Stage 3 - Religion, Philosophy and Ethics

RPE is compulsory in each year group at KS3. It is taught over one 50 minute lesson per week in Years 7 and 8, and three 50 minute lessons per two week cycle in Year 9. There is one homework slot (approximately 30 minutes) per cycle.

What we study...

Year 7

The topics covered in Year 7 are:

- **Aspects of World Religions** – *A study of the key aspects within the six major world religions (e.g. Symbols, founders, Holy Books, initiation ceremonies etc.)*
- **Special Places and Special Journeys** – *A study of places of worship and pilgrimages within different faiths. This topic will hopefully include a visit to a local place of worship.*
- **Independent Research Topic** – *We end the year with an enjoyable research topic as they examine the potential impact of a religious faith on the life of a celebrity. What if David Beckham became a Sikh?!*

Year 8

The topics covered in Year 8 are:

- **What makes a good role model?** – *A short introductory topic where pupils examine key figures from past and present, considering what makes a good role model.*
- **Jesus** – *We study the key events in the life of Jesus, considering aspects of his character and ministry, and what makes Jesus a good role model for some people. These aspects include the Nativity, Baptism, Temptation, the Disciples, Parables, Miracles, Crucifixion and Resurrection.*
- **The Problem of Evil and Suffering** – *We examine a range of types of suffering and case studies, including their causes and effects. Pupils consider the responses and explanations for suffering provided by Christians and Buddhists, and evaluate the extent to which evil and suffering creates a problem for theists.*
- **Is there such a thing as Life after Death?** – *We explore the issue of life after death, and assess the validity of potential evidence. This will include looking at examples of near-death experiences, claimed ghost sightings and telepathy. You will compare the theories of resurrection, immortality of the soul and reincarnation, and will evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of each theory.*

Year 9

The topics covered in Year 9 are

- **Contemporary Moral Issues** – *We consider six ethical issues, including Euthanasia, Drug Abuse, Capital Punishment and Religion and the Media. They examine the relevant laws, problems and solutions, arguments for/against, case studies and key figures. Pupils are encouraged to form their own opinions, whilst appreciating the views of others.*
- **Modern Issues within Religion** – *We examine the events surrounding the Holocaust and the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. The topic concludes with an independent research task in response to the question ‘Would the world be a better place with or without religion?’*

- **Science Vs. Religion** –*We look at the science vs. religion debate, and possible theories for/against the existence of God. These include the Big Bang Theory, the theory of Evolution, the Design Argument and the Cosmological Argument. Pupils are introduced to philosophers such as Thomas Aquinas, and modern thinkers such as Hawking, Dawkins and Swinburne. They are encouraged to consider the extent to which developments in science pose a problem for religion today.*

How is KS3 assessed?

- Throughout each year there is continuous assessment through the marking of exercise books
- Each term each year group will have a common assessment task to complete
- Each year group participates in an end of year examination