

Curriculum Plan: Religious Studies

Department: Religious Studies
Vision Statement: Our Religious Studies curriculum enables students to develop rich knowledge and understanding of religions, beliefs and worldviews, while encouraging them to express and communicate their own ideas thoughtfully and respectfully. Through the study of religious traditions, philosophical questions and contemporary ethical issues, students learn to interpret sources of wisdom, explain diverse beliefs and evaluate differing viewpoints. As they progress through Key Stages 3 and 4, students gain and deploy the skills of enquiry, analysis, reflection and reasoned argument, becoming increasingly able to investigate religious and non-religious perspectives, appreciate the impact of belief on individuals and communities, and respond critically and respectfully to the challenges of life in a diverse modern society. This curriculum develops religious literacy, promotes mutual respect and community cohesion, and prepares students to engage confidently with the moral, spiritual and cultural questions of the contemporary world.
Strapline: Answering Big Questions, Understanding Diverse Worldviews.
Our Curriculum Story: The Colton Hills RS curriculum explores how people make sense of life's biggest questions through religion, belief and worldview. In Year 7, students build religious literacy by studying major world religions, prayer, meditation and creation. For this year only, Year 8 students will be covering the same topics as Year 7 in order to make sure both year groups have strong foundational knowledge of each of the six major world religions and how they impact the believers of each faith. Year 9 applies these ideas to contemporary issues such as the value of life, peace and conflict, equality, identity and belonging. This foundation prepares students for GCSE Religious Studies in Years 10 and 11, where they study Christianity and Sikhi in depth before exploring religious responses to issues including relationships, life and death, peace and conflict, and crime and punishment. Throughout the curriculum, students develop knowledge and understanding of religions and worldviews, learn to express and communicate their own ideas thoughtfully and respectfully, and gain and deploy the skills of enquiry, analysis and evaluation. By the end of Year 11, students are equipped to engage critically with diverse beliefs and make informed judgements about the moral, spiritual and philosophical issues that shape modern society.
Skills Developed in Key Stage Three: Investigating, Application Skills, Reflecting, Expressing, Empathising, Discerning, Analysing, Synthesising, Evaluating

Year 7: In Year 7, pupils develop religious literacy by exploring Abrahamic and Dharmic traditions, examining the nature of religion and worldview, and investigating questions about prayer, meditation and creation. Through enquiry, interpretation, evaluation and respectful discussion, pupils build the knowledge and skills needed to understand diverse beliefs and participate positively in a multicultural society.

Topics	Why we teach this?	Links to last topic	Links to future topics	Key Skills	Cultural Capital opportunities	Links to whole school curriculum
10 weeks: What is religion? Focus on Abrahamic Faiths	Introduces the concept of religion and worldview. Develops understanding of the beliefs, practices and sources of authority within Christianity, Islam and Judaism.	KS2 learning about Christianity, Islam and Judaism. Prior learning about beliefs, worship, festivals and sacred texts.	Is prayer and meditation worthwhile? (Yr7) Why believe in God? (Yr8) Can faith and belief do more to build and equal society? (Yr9)	Defining key concepts. Comparing beliefs and practices. Interpreting sacred texts and sources of wisdom. Developing respectful discussion and questioning	Exploration of religious art, architecture and music.	British Values: mutual respect and tolerance. SMSC development. PRIDE Values – Diversity, Excellence, and inclusion.
10 weeks: What is religion? Focus on Dharmic Faiths	Explores Hindu Dharma, Sikh and Buddhist beliefs and practices. Promotes appreciation of religious diversity within Wolverhampton.	What is religion? (Focus on Abrahamic Faiths) KS2 learning about Sikhi, Hindu Dharma and Buddhism	Is prayer and meditation worthwhile? (Yr7) Why believe in God? (Yr8) Can faith and belief do more to build and equal society? (Yr9)	Comparison and analysis. Identifying similarities and differences. Using religious vocabulary accurately. Investigating beliefs through sources of wisdom.	Study of Sikh seva, Hindu festivals and Buddhist meditation.	PRIDE Values - Diversity and inclusion. Geography History

10 weeks: Is prayer and meditation worthwhile?	Explores the role of spiritual practices in believers' lives, as well as Humanist and atheist views. Encourages reflection on meaning, wellbeing and personal identity.	What is religion? (Yr7) KS2 learning about different religious practices	How can people express spirituality through the arts? (Yr8) What is good and challenging about being a teenage believer in Britain today? (Yr9)	Evaluation Forming reasoned judgements. Analysing religious practices. Reflecting on personal viewpoints.	Experiencing guided mindfulness or meditation. Exploring prayer spaces and places of worship.	Mental health and wellbeing. PRIDE values – respect and diversity British Values – Mutual respect and Tolerance
10 weeks: How was the world created?	Investigates religious and non-religious explanations of origins. Encourages engagement with ultimate questions about existence and purpose. Develops understanding of how beliefs influence people's lives and values.	What is religion? (Yr7) KS2 learning about religious beliefs of creation	Is there an afterlife? (Yr8) How valuable is human life? (Yr9)	Interpretation of sacred texts. Comparison of viewpoints. Critical thinking. Constructing balanced arguments using evidence	Study of creation stories in art, literature and culture.	Science Art PRIDE values – diversity and respect

Year 8: In Year 8, pupils will be completing the same curriculum as Year 7 to ensure all students have a baseline understanding of the six world religions. Students develop religious literacy by exploring Abrahamic and Dharmic traditions, examining the nature of religion and worldview, and investigating questions about prayer, meditation and creation. Through enquiry, interpretation, evaluation and respectful discussion, pupils build the knowledge and skills needed to understand diverse beliefs and participate positively in a multicultural society.						
Topics	Why we teach this?	Links to last topic	Links to future topics	Key Skills	Cultural Capital opportunities	Links to whole school curriculum
10 weeks: What is religion? Focus on Abrahamic Faiths	Introduces the concept of religion and worldview. Develops understanding of the beliefs, practices and sources of authority within Christianity, Islam and Judaism.	KS2 learning about Christianity, Islam and Judaism. Prior learning about beliefs, worship, festivals and sacred texts.	Is prayer and meditation worthwhile? (Yr7) Why believe in God? (Yr8) Can faith and belief do more to build and equal society? (Yr9)	Defining key concepts. Comparing beliefs and practices. Interpreting sacred texts and sources of wisdom. Developing respectful discussion and questioning	Exploration of religious art, architecture and music.	British Values: mutual respect and tolerance. SMSC development. PRIDE Values – Diversity, Excellence, and inclusion.
10 weeks: What is religion? Focus on Dharmic Faiths	Explores Hindu Dharma, Sikh and Buddhist beliefs and practices. Promotes appreciation of religious diversity within Wolverhampton.	What is religion? (Focus on Abrahamic Faiths) KS2 learning about Sikhi, Hindu Dharma and Buddhism	Is prayer and meditation worthwhile? (Yr7) Why believe in God? (Yr8) Can faith and belief do more to build and equal society? (Yr9)	Comparison and analysis. Identifying similarities and differences. Using religious vocabulary accurately. Investigating beliefs through sources of wisdom.	Study of Sikh seva, Hindu festivals and Buddhist meditation.	PRIDE Values - Diversity and inclusion. Geography History

10 weeks: Is prayer and meditation worthwhile?	Explores the role of spiritual practices in believers' lives, as well as Humanist and atheist views. Encourages reflection on meaning, wellbeing and personal identity.	What is religion? (Yr7) KS2 learning about different religious practices	How can people express spirituality through the arts? (Yr8) What is good and challenging about being a teenage believer in Britain today? (Yr9)	Evaluation Forming reasoned judgements. Analysing religious practices. Reflecting on personal viewpoints.	Experiencing guided mindfulness or meditation. Exploring prayer spaces and places of worship.	Mental health and wellbeing. PRIDE values – respect and diversity British Values – Mutual respect and Tolerance
10 weeks: How was the world created?	Investigates religious and non-religious explanations of origins. Encourages engagement with ultimate questions about existence and purpose. Develops understanding of how beliefs influence people's lives and values.	What is religion? (Yr7) KS2 learning about religious beliefs of creation	Is there an afterlife? (Yr8) How valuable is human life? (Yr9)	Interpretation of sacred texts. Comparison of viewpoints. Critical thinking. Constructing balanced arguments using evidence	Study of creation stories in art, literature and culture.	Science Art PRIDE values – diversity and respect

Year 9: Year 9 RS encourages students to explore how religious and non-religious beliefs shape responses to ethical issues, peace and conflict, equality and identity. Through critical enquiry and evaluation, students develop the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to engage thoughtfully with contemporary issues and contribute positively to life in a diverse modern society.

Topics	Why we teach this?	Links to last topic	Links to future topics	Key Skills	Cultural Capital opportunities	Links to whole school curriculum
10 weeks: How valuable is human life?	Explore religious and non-religious beliefs about the value and sanctity of life. Develop understanding of contemporary ethical issues and moral decision-making. Encourage informed, respectful discussion about human dignity, justice and equality.	How was the world created? (Yr7) Is there an afterlife? (Yr8)	Can faith and belief do more to build an equal society? (Yr9) GCSE Theme B: Religion and Life	Analyse and evaluate ethical issues from different viewpoints. Construct balanced arguments using evidence from religious teachings and worldviews. Express and justify personal responses to controversial issues	Explore real-world debates surrounding organ donation, genetics and capital punishment.	British Values – Mutual Respect and Tolerance Science
10 weeks: Does religion make peace or cause war?	Explore religious teachings about peace, justice, forgiveness and conflict. Examine how beliefs influence individual and community responses to war and peace-making. Develop understanding of contemporary issues surrounding religion, conflict and reconciliation.	What is religion? (Yr7) Why is there evil and suffering in the world? (Yr8) How valuable is human life? (Yr9)	What is good and challenging about being a teenage believer in Britain today? (Yr9) GCSE Theme D: Religion, Peace and Conflict	Analyse and evaluate religious teachings about war and peace. Compare Christian, Muslim and Sikh perspectives on conflict. Construct balanced arguments using evidence from religious sources and examples.	Investigate local, national and global examples of religious organisations promoting peace.	British Values – respect and tolerance PRIDE Values – respect and diversity History

10 weeks: Can faith and belief do more to build an equal society?	Explore how religious teachings promote equality, justice and compassion. Examine the impact of faith on challenging prejudice and supporting inclusion. Encourage students to consider how beliefs can help create a fairer society.	Is prayer and meditation worthwhile? (Yr7) Why is there evil and suffering in the world? (Yr8)	What is good and challenging about being a teenage believer in Britain today? (Yr9) GCSE Christianity Beliefs and Teachings GCSE Sikhi Beliefs and Teachings	Analyse religious stories and teachings to identify key moral messages. Evaluate how beliefs influence attitudes and actions towards others. Construct reasoned arguments about faith's role in promoting equality.	Study influential religious figures including Guru Nanak, Buddha and Jesus. Explore the role of langar and other faith-based community initiatives.	British Values – respect and tolerance PRIDE values – integrity and excellence PSHE
10 weeks: What is good and challenging about being a teenage believer in Britain today?	Explore how faith and belief can shape identity, values and belonging. Examine the opportunities and challenges faced by religious young people in modern Britain. Encourage understanding of diverse beliefs in a multicultural society.	Is prayer and meditation worthwhile? (Yr7) How can people express spirituality through the arts? (Yr8)	GCSE Christianity Practices GCSE Sikhi Practices	Analyse different perspectives on faith, identity and belonging. Evaluate the benefits and challenges of religious commitment. Construct balanced arguments using religious and non-religious viewpoints.	Explore the experiences of young believers in contemporary Britain.	British Values – mutual respect and tolerance PSHE PRIDE values – diversity and excellence

Year 10 GCSE RS: Through the study of Christianity and Sikhi, students develop a secure understanding of religious beliefs, teachings and practices, and how these influence the lives of believers. Students build the knowledge, analytical skills and evaluative thinking required for GCSE Religious Studies, whilst developing religious literacy, critical thinking and an appreciation of the diverse beliefs and communities that shape contemporary Britain

Topics	Why we teach this?	Links to last topic	Links to future topics	Key Skills	Cultural Capital opportunities	Links to whole school curriculum
Christianity Beliefs and Teachings	Explore core Christian beliefs including the nature of God, creation, salvation and life after death. Understand the significance of Jesus' incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension for Christians today Develop understanding of how Christian beliefs influence individuals, communities and society.	What is religion? (Yr7) How was the world created? (Yr7) Is there an afterlife? (Yr8)	Theme B: Religion and Life Theme E: Religion, Crime and Punishment	Interpret Biblical teachings and sources of authority. Explain and analyse Christian beliefs and doctrines. Evaluate the influence of beliefs on Christian attitudes and actions	Study Christian art, symbolism and sacred texts.	History English British Values PRIDE values
Christianity Practices	Explore how Christian beliefs are expressed through worship, prayer and sacraments. Understand the role of the Church in local and global communities. Examine the significance of key practices such as baptism, Eucharist, pilgrimage and festivals.	What is religion? (Yr7) Why believe in God? (Yr8) Christianity Beliefs and Teachings (Yr10)	Theme B: Religion and Life Theme D: Religion, Peace and Conflict	Explain the purpose and significance of religious practices. Compare different Christian approaches to worship. Analyse the relationship between belief and practice.	Investigation of Christian charitable organisations such as Christian Aid, CAFOD or Tearfund.	Geography History British Values PRIDE Values

Sikhi Beliefs and Teachings	Explore Sikh beliefs about God, equality, human life, karma and liberation (mukti). Understand the teachings of Guru Nanak and the importance of the Guru Granth Sahib. Develop understanding of how Sikh beliefs shape identity and daily life.	What is religion? (Yr7) Why believe in God? (Yr8) Does religion make peace or cause war? (Yr9)	Sikhi Practices Theme A: Relationships and Families Theme B: Religion and Life	Explain Sikh beliefs using religious terminology accurately. Interpret teachings from the Guru Granth Sahib. Analyse how beliefs influence Sikh values and behaviour.	Explore the significance of Guru Nanak and other Sikh Gurus.	PSHE PRIDE Values British Values
Sikhi Practices	Explore how Sikh beliefs are expressed through worship, service and community life. Understand the significance of the Gurdwara, Langar, prayer and the Khalsa. Examine how Sikh practices promote equality, identity and commitment.	Can faith and belief do more to build an equal society? (Yr9) Sikhi Beliefs and Teachings (Yr10)	Theme D: Religion, Peace and Conflict Theme E: Religion, Crime and Punishment	Explain the meaning and importance of Sikh practices. Analyse how beliefs are reflected in everyday Sikh life. Evaluate the role of religious practice in building community	Study Sikh festivals, initiation ceremonies and expressions of identity	PSHE PRIDE Values British Values

Year 11 GCSE RS: Through the study of Relationships and Families, Religion and Life, Religion, Peace and Conflict, and Religion, Crime and Punishment, students explore how Christian and Sikh beliefs shape responses to contemporary ethical and social issues. Students develop the knowledge, critical-thinking and evaluative skills required for GCSE Religious Studies, while gaining a deeper understanding of morality, identity, justice and human responsibility in modern Britain and the wider world						
Topics	Why we teach this?	Links to last topic	Links to future topics	Key Skills	Cultural Capital opportunities	Links to whole school curriculum
Theme A: Relationships and Families	Explore Christian and Sikh beliefs about relationships, marriage and family life. Examine contemporary issues including contraception, divorce, same-sex relationships and gender equality. Develop understanding of how religious teachings influence personal and social decision-making.	Can faith and belief do more to build an equal society? (Yr9) GCSE Christianity and Sikhi	Theme B: Religion And Life Theme D: Religion, Peace and Conflict Theme E: Religion, Crime and Punishment	Compare Christian and Sikh responses to family and relationship issues. Analyse religious teachings and sources of authority. Evaluate contrasting viewpoints on contemporary ethical issues.	Examine religious and cultural attitudes towards marriage and family life.	PSHE British Values Sociology Health and Social
Theme B: Religion and Life	Explore religious beliefs about the origins and value of life and the universe Examine ethical issues including abortion, euthanasia and animal experimentation. Develop understanding of stewardship, environmental responsibility and the sanctity of life.	How was the world created? (Yr7) How valuable is human life? (Yr9) GCSE Christianity and Sikhi	Theme D: Religion, Peace and Conflict Theme E: Religion, Crime and Punishment	Analyse religious teachings about life, death and creation. Compare religious and scientific explanations of origins. Evaluate ethical arguments using evidence and sources of authority	Explore contemporary debates surrounding abortion and euthanasia.	Science Geography PSHE

Theme D: Religion Peace and Conflict	Explore Christian and Sikh teachings about peace, forgiveness, justice and reconciliation. Examine the causes of war, terrorism and conflict in the modern world. Develop understanding of religious responses to violence and peace-making	Does religion make peace or cause war? (Yr9) Why is there evil and suffering in the world? (Yr8) GCSE Christianity and Sikhi	Theme E: Religion, Crime and Punishment	Analyse religious teachings on war, peace and forgiveness. Evaluate arguments about violence, pacifism and just war. Use evidence to construct balanced arguments on contemporary issues.	Study religious peacemakers and humanitarian organisations.	History Geography PSHE
Theme E: Religion Peace and Conflict	Explore Christian and Sikh teachings about good, evil, justice and forgiveness. Examine causes of crime and different approaches to punishment. Develop understanding of ethical debates surrounding the death penalty and criminal justice.	Can faith and belief do more to build an equal society? (Yr9) GCSE Christianity and Sikhi	n/a	Analyse religious teachings about crime, punishment and forgiveness. Compare Christian and Sikh responses to justice issues. Evaluate ethical arguments using religious evidence and reasoning.	Investigate debates surrounding prisons, rehabilitation and the death penalty.	Sociology History Geography PSHE

Year 10 CORE RS: As Religious Studies remains a statutory requirement for all students in England until the age of 18, Core RS provides every student with the opportunity to continue exploring religion, belief and worldview beyond Key Stage 3.

Topics	Why we teach this?	Links to last topic	Links to future topics	Key Skills	Cultural Capital opportunities	Links to whole school curriculum
What are the key teachings of the major world religions?	Explore the core beliefs and teachings that shape the lives of religious and non-religious people around the world. Develop understanding of the diversity of beliefs present in modern Britain and the local Wolverhampton community. Encourage students to reflect on how beliefs influence identity, values, actions and society.	What is religion? (Yr7) Why believe in God? (Yr8) Can faith and religion do more to build an equal society? (Yr9)	What are some modern religious movements? (Yr10) What are some modern religious conflicts? (Yr10)	Explain the significance of key religious and non-religious teachings. Compare similarities and differences between worldviews. Express informed personal responses supported by evidence and reasoning.	Explore the beliefs and practices of communities represented in Wolverhampton and across Britain.	PSHE British Values PRIDE Values
How can we apply ethics to moral situations?	Explore key philosophical and ethical theories that influence decision-making in modern society. Develop students' ability to analyse moral issues from different perspectives.	How valuable is human life? (Yr9) Do religions make peace or cause war? (Yr9)	What are some modern religious conflicts? (Yr10)	Apply ethical theories to real-life moral situations. Analyse and evaluate different philosophical viewpoints. Construct reasoned arguments supported by evidence and logical justification.	Examine contemporary debates surrounding war, euthanasia, abortion and belief.	PSHE History English

What are some modern religious movements?	Explore the diversity of religious belief and practice in the modern world. Develop understanding of newer and alternative religious movements and their place in contemporary society.	What is religion? (Yr7) Why believe in God? (Yr8) Is there an afterlife? (Yr8)	What are some ancient religions of the world? (Yr11) Why are there divisions in religion? (Yr11)	Analyse and compare a range of religious and non-religious worldviews. Evaluate differing perspectives and challenge misconceptions.	Examine media portrayals of minority religious groups and new religious movements.	PSHE English History
What are some modern religious conflicts?	Explore the complex role religion can play in conflict, identity and community relations. Develop understanding of contemporary global issues involving religion, politics and human rights.	Why is there evil and suffering in the world? (Yr8) Does religion make peace or cause war? (Yr9)	Why are there divisions in religion? (Yr11) What are some iconic religious buildings? (Yr11)	Analyse the causes and consequences of religious and political conflict. Interpret different perspectives on controversial historical and contemporary issues.	Investigate issues of religious persecution, human rights and community cohesion.	PSHE History Geography

Year 11 CORE RS: As Religious Studies remains a statutory requirement for all students in England until the age of 18, Core RS provides every student with the opportunity to continue exploring religion, belief and worldview beyond Key Stage 3. Yr11 will be studying some of the same topics as Yr10 for this academic year as this will be a brand new curriculum to all.

Topics	Why we teach this?	Links to last topic	Links to future topics	Key Skills	Cultural Capital opportunities	Links to whole school curriculum
What are some modern religious movements?	Explore the diversity of religious belief and practice in the modern world. Develop understanding of newer and alternative religious movements and their place in contemporary society.	What is religion? (Yr7) Why believe in God? (Yr8) Is there an afterlife? (Yr8)	What are some ancient religions of the world? (Yr11) Why are there divisions in religion? (Yr11)	Analyse and compare a range of religious and non-religious worldviews. Evaluate differing perspectives and challenge misconceptions.	Examine media portrayals of minority religious groups and new religious movements.	PSHE English History
What are some modern religious conflicts?	Explore the complex role religion can play in conflict, identity and community relations. Develop understanding of contemporary global issues involving religion, politics and human rights.	Why is there evil and suffering in the world? (Yr8) Does religion make peace or cause war? (Yr9)	Why are there divisions in religion? (Yr11) What are some iconic religious buildings? (Yr11)	Analyse the causes and consequences of religious and political conflict. Interpret different perspectives on controversial historical and contemporary issues.	Investigate issues of religious persecution, human rights and community cohesion.	PSHE History Geography
What are some iconic religious buildings?	Explore how religious beliefs are expressed through architecture, art, design and sacred spaces. Develop understanding of the significance of places of worship and pilgrimage for different faith communities.	What is religion? (Yr7) Can faith and spirituality be expressed through the arts? (Yr8)	n/a	Interpret how beliefs and values are reflected in religious architecture and symbolism. Compare similarities and differences between sacred sites from different traditions.	Explore some of the world's most significant religious landmarks and their influence on global culture.	History Geography Art PRIDE Values