

Religion, Philosophy & Ethics

GCSE

Course Leader: Miss Bethany Fairs

Contact Email: bfairs@tgschool.net

Examination Board: AQA

Assessment: 100% external examination, 2 x 1 hour 45 minutes exams

Why should I study this subject at Key Stage 4?

This is a very engaging course about people and what they believe. You will examine a range of beliefs and actions, which will help you understand the diverse world we live in.

What does the course involve?

Students will be following the AQA GCSE 'Religious Studies A' specification (Route A) which consists of two components:

Component 1 is the study of religious beliefs and practices in Christianity and Islam.

Christian beliefs: Key beliefs in Christianity and how beliefs influence Christians today as individuals, communities and societies. **Christian practices:** A study of how Christians put the teachings of Jesus into practice in their everyday lives. What impact does this have on society? How do Christians worship?

Islamic beliefs: Key beliefs in Islam and how they influence Muslims today as individuals, communities and societies. **Islamic practices:** A study of how Muslims put their faith into action. How do Muslims pray? How can they put their beliefs into practice in their everyday lives? What impact does this have on society?

Component 2 is the thematic study of four religious, philosophical and ethical themes.

Relationships and Families: This topical, current affairs unit will involve students learning about different societal attitudes, non religious and religious views on sex, marriage, family, contraception, divorce and gender equality.

Religion and Life: A philosophical and ethical investigation into questions such as Why are we here? How did the world begin? What is the purpose of human life? Issues of abortion, euthanasia and animal experimentation will be discussed.

Crime and Punishment: What are the different reasons people commit crime? What are the ethical and philosophical implications of capital punishment, corporal punishment and forgiveness?

Human Rights and Social Justice: A philosophical and ethical investigation into issues surrounding justice and injustice in the world. Human rights and social responsibility, equality and justice.

Skills developed

GCSE RPE will develop your communication skills through extensive debating. The ability to listen, have empathy for others, express your opinions and consider the viewpoints of others will all be key skills as you learn more in this subject. This subject will also develop your skills as a critical and abstract thinker, your ability to write persuasively and with analytical detail.