

Religious Education Department

Curriculum Overview - Year 8

The Big Picture:

Year 8 will study: The key aspects of growing up religious and how this would affect a young person's life and beliefs – for example – their belief in life after death. They will examine key events for young religious believers in different religions and how it impacts them (primary focus on Christianity). This year students will begin to apply religious attitudes to different moral and ethical issues such as war. For example, religion and belief as a cause of war and violence in the contemporary world, nuclear weapons, including nuclear deterrence, the use of weapons of mass destruction, religion and peace-making in the contemporary world including the work of individuals

influenced by religious teaching, religious responses to the victims of war including the work of one present day religious organisation.

They will also explore the religion of Buddhism in depth. Students should study the beliefs, teachings and practices of Buddhism specified below and their basis in Buddhist sources of wisdom and authority. They will be able to refer to scripture and/or sacred texts where appropriate. Common and divergent views within Buddhism in the way beliefs and teachings are understood are explored.

Students will evaluate how far concepts of truth, right and wrong generated by different belief systems, are used to justify behaviour in order to answer philosophical questions such as; how might beliefs shape concepts of truth, right and wrong? How might belief affect people's responses towards social and global issues?

<p>Term 1: Rites of passage & festivals #1 Green Task: GCSE style exam – Students will examine the key aspects they have studied in this unit exploring different rites of passage and the afterlife. They will examine the different beliefs about the afterlife and how a belief in the afterlife affects actions in life. Assessment Objectives covered – A01 & A02</p>	<p>Term 4: Religious attitudes to war, justice and peace #2 Green Task: GCSE style exam – Students will examine the meaning and significance of; peace, justice, forgiveness, terrorism, reasons for war, including greed, self-defence and retaliation, The Just War theory, including the criteria for a Just War, Holy war and pacifism Assessment Objective Covered – A01 & A02</p>
<p>Term 2: Rites of passage & festivals #2 Green Task: GCSE style exam – Students will examine the rite of passage 'marriage' – they will explore the purpose of marriage, what happens during a Christian marriage ceremony, how the beliefs and practices reflect the purpose of the ceremony. They will also examine the reasons to support and oppose the following statement; "In the 21st century, marriage is an outdated idea." Assessment Objectives covered – A01 & A02</p>	<p>Term 5: Buddhism in depth Green Task: GCSE style exam – examining how can you apply the teachings of Buddha to everyday life, local, national and global issues and different interpretations of Buddhism. Assessment Objectives – A01 & A02</p>

Term 3:

Religious attitudes to war, justice and peace #1

Green Task:

Students will be given a case scenario regarding war. Using this case scenario, they will begin to explore the reasons for and against going to war, the religious reasons why war would be acceptable and the religious reasons why war would be unacceptable. They must apply these attitudes and then conclude if war should or should not happen, justifying their answer.

Assessment Objectives covered – A01 & A02

Term 6:

Religious attitudes to drugs

Green Task:

GCSE style exam examining the reasons people take drugs, the religious attitudes to legal and illegal substances, how addicts should be treated and how beliefs influence religious responses to drug taking.

Assessment Objectives Covered – A01 & A02