

Welcome to Year 8 Religious Studies

In Year 8, you will study 4 units that cover a wide range of religious & philosophical concepts. You will be developing the necessary skills to begin the GCSE Philosophy and Ethics course in Year 9 and there will be links with what you go on to study in Year 9 History.

Unit 1 Religion and Science – are they in conflict?

In this unit you will be studying different philosophical concepts such as ‘truth’, ‘the existence of God’ and ‘morality’. You will have the opportunity to debate and discuss interesting questions linked to faith and belief and will be able to reflect on your own beliefs and values and their importance to you.

Unit 2 Over one billion people follow Islam, so what does it mean to be a Muslim?

In this unit you will have the opportunity to study in detail the beliefs and practices of the Muslim faith. You will investigate the concepts of community and worship whilst exploring key practices, such as Hajj, (pilgrimage to Mecca), and Ramadan, (fasting during the holy month of Ramadan).

Unit 3 Religious Martyrdom

A martyr is someone who is willing to suffer or die for their faith. You will investigate why some people have felt and still feel it is necessary to suffer for one’s faith. This concept is mainly explored through Christian and Sikh examples of martyrdom but also looks at modern day martyrdom and non-religious examples of martyrdom.

Unit 4 Jewish Identity – a chosen people

Judaism is a religious faith steeped in history, and with a rich variety of practice. In this unit, you will investigate what it means to be Jewish, looking at the covenant relationship between God and the Jewish people, and seeing how this impacts the lives of Jews today. This unit will give you a thorough preparation for your study of the Holocaust in Year 9 History.