



Religious Education Curriculum

RE Department

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Overview

Religious Education at St Wilfrids is an invitation to students to enquire, question and explore. We have a dynamic and innovative programme of study covering Catholicism in depth and other world religions such as Islam and Judaism. Students find the courses exciting and enriching, and value the opportunity to ask and explore fundamental questions about existence, how we live our life day to day and of course what might happen after death. Every classroom is a safe and secure environment in which students have the opportunity to explore their faith and other people's and engage in a journey of exploration and discovery.

Key Stage 3

During Key Stage 3 we provide an exciting and engaging programme in which students can engage with fundamental questions of existence and meaning through Christianity in particular but also Islam, Hinduism and Judaism.

"I came that they might have life, and have it to the full" John 10:10

In Year 7 we study both the Life of Jesus through the Gospels and the early church to provide us with a broader context. We look at the miracles associated with him focusing especially upon the Gospel of Luke and Acts of the Apostles. There is also an Immersion day for year 7 where they have the opportunity to explore what life was like in first century Palestine in order to provide students with the broader context for their study. As part of our study of world religions we also run an enquiry based course on Islam in which students begin to develop a basic understanding of the Muslim faith, practices, places of worship and forms of prayer. In previous years we have run a trip to a local mosque which students have always found engaging and interesting.

"I am the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." Exodus 3:6

Year 8 is an immersion in the Hebrew Scriptures or Old Testament studying the history of salvation and ancient Judaism. We look at key characters and events within the history of Israel as well as different approaches to interpreting the scriptures for example the creation account in Genesis 1. Throughout this study we also explore the relationship between the Old and New testaments within Christianity and how the New Testament provides us with a key to unlock and interpret many events of the Old. The year concludes with a study of modern day Judaism, building upon much of what we have studied already comparing and contrasting Old Testament Judaism and the different strands which exist today.

"Love is the Fundamental and Innate vocation of the human person" Pope St John Paul II



Year 9 seeks to build upon the foundations of Year 7 and 8 but this time developing further the ability to questions and evaluate philosophical issues surrounding the existence of God. They then take this knowledge of Christian beliefs and compare and contrast those with Hindu and Buddhist beliefs exploring how either faiths respond to they respond to these philosophical debates. Upon reflection on the different beliefs we get them to reflect on their own journey by looking at vocation what that means and exploring what they have been called to do by reflecting on the call of others such and Saint Teresa of Calcutta and Brother Roger of Taize. The year will finish by starting the new GCSE course.

Key Stage 4

Current Year 11

At GCSE we study the Edexcel Course units 3 and 10. In Year 10 we explore four big questions within the Catholic tradition: "Who is God?"; "What is the Church?"; "How do we pray and worship?"; and "How do I live my life?". Through these questions, we explore the teachings, traditions, feasts and celebrations as well as how we are called to live day to day. In year 11 we move on to explore philosophical and moral issues such as 'Can you prove that God exists?'; 'What happens when we die?'; 'What are the moral issues around assisted suicide?' as well as contemporary issues around marriage and family life such as divorce and same-sex unions. Year 11 then finishes with an exploration of benefits and tensions of living in a multi faith and multi ethnic society and what religious groups, government authorities and we are doing to help and support religious and community cohesion. There is no course work at GCSE and it is assessed through two exams at the end of year 11 both worth 50% of the final grade.

Year 10

At GCSE we study the AQA Religious Studies B course in which they will sit two exams. The first paper focuses on Catholic Christianity looking at key beliefs and practices as well as considering forms of expression including religious art and music. The second paper focuses firstly on Judaism and their beliefs and practices and then two Philosophical or Ethical themes. Both papers are worth 50% of the whole GCSE and sat in the summer term of Year 11. Together they form the whole GCSE grade, and form a good foundation for A Level Philosophy and Ethics, which is offered in the Sixth Form.

Key Stage 5

General RE is an opportunity for students to continue their social, spiritual and moral development. All students who come to St Wilfrid's Sixth form take part and choose and particular strand to follow during that year. In the past strands have typically included the opportunity for social action and fundraising, course to explore moral and philosophical issues such as what happens after death, getting involved in outreach projects to feeder primary schools and a course to explore in a deeper and more personal way their faith.

AS/A2 Philosophy and Ethics: One of the most popular courses in St Wilfrids Sixth Form, Philosophy and Ethics explores a variety of issues and topics from "Can you prove God's existence or for that matter your own?" to "Can Genetic Engineering of humans be a good thing?". Students engage with philosophers such as Plato and Aristotle from as far back as ancient Greece up to modern day philosophers such as Richard Swinburn and Peter Kreeft. They go on a rigorous and evaluative journey where they must learn how to think, reason, argue and communicate in a logical and coherent way. The new course also covers Developments in Christian thoughts which over the two years will give students the opportunity to explore religious beliefs and values and how they have historically developed. There are great discussions in lessons and great opportunities for independent learning and further research. We follow the OCR course in Philosophy and Ethics which is 100% exam with three exams at the end of Year 13.