



# Religious Education Curriculum

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## 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 start the year with a welcome module considering the communities we belong to, Prayer and reflection and being to explore elements of the Bible. We then being to explore the roots of Christianity by looking at the Old Testament and Judaism. We then go on to consider different elements of Vocation and how both Saints and Prophets have been called by God. There is also an Immersion day for year 7 where they have the opportunity to explore different faiths from around the world. As part of our study of world religions we also run a moral detailed enquiry based course on Islam and Hinduism in which students begin to develop a basic understanding of the Muslim and Hindu faith, practices, places of worship and forms of prayer.

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

**Year 8** begins by looking at the Life of Jesus, we will explore key events in his life but also key teachings that have played a fundamental role in the foundation of the early church. We also explore different spiritual journeys that as Christians we embark on including pilgrimage and the sacramental journey. As part of the year we also cover a programme of EPR which looks at different relationships from a Catholic perspective. The year concludes by looking at a philosophical module which allows the students to investigate some of those big questions such as why does a good God allow suffering.

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



**Year 9** will start the GCSE course, this is due to the nature and demands of the new course. Having the GCSE over three years will allow for us not only to cover the content that is required but spend time working on the necessary exam skills they will need. The outline of what we study is below.

#### **Key Stage 4**

##### **Year 10 and 11**

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 Islam and key 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**

**Spiritual Development** 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 a 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. We have also re-established the SVP group within the Spiritual development programme giving many students to volunteer with our local community.

**A Level - Philosophy and Ethics:** This is a popular course 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 Euthanasia 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.

**Subject Leader: Mrs C Baldwin**

**Department Website: <http://re.stwilfrids.com/>**