

# Religious Studies at Kings' School



Welcome to Kings' School Religious Studies department. In this booklet you will receive a brief overview of what we study in Religious Studies here at Kings' and how we create a supportive environment that allows the individual growth of every student. We incorporate a key Kings' Skill of looking at the 'Bigger Picture' whilst using the Hampshire Agreed Syllabus "Living

Difference" as the grounding of our curriculum. The curriculum is based upon understanding and responding to the key concepts within the major religious traditions and non-religious beliefs represented in Great Britain. Living Difference...



...takes seriously the importance of children and young people exploring their own lives in relation to what it can mean to live with a religious orientation on life and other ways of life, including those informed by a non-religious perspective, and to engage with this intellectually.

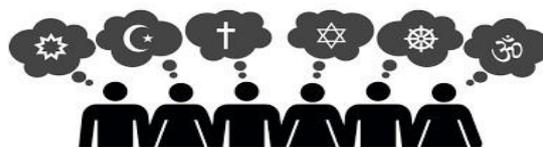
(Living Difference III, 2016)

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/hias/curriculum-support/living-difference-re-syllabus>

The right to withdraw please contact Mr Leeming, Headteacher

## What is Religious Studies?

Religious Studies incorporates the concepts of Religion, Philosophy and Ethics. Religion is everywhere and we look at some of the major World Religions. As well as the study of religion, we look at ultimate questions such as 'What is real?' and 'How do we know right from wrong?' The study of the Holocaust and topics such as cloning and animal ethics include just a few of the cross-curricular links. Read on for more specific information about what is covered in each year of Religious Studies at Kings'.



## WHAT DO WE STUDY IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION?

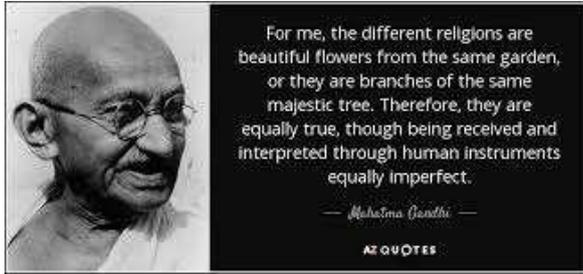
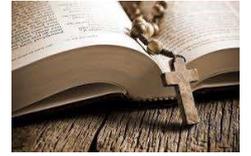
### **YEAR 7- INTRODUCTION TO RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY, ETHICS**

Overview- Introduction to RS, The Bible, Ethics, Influential People

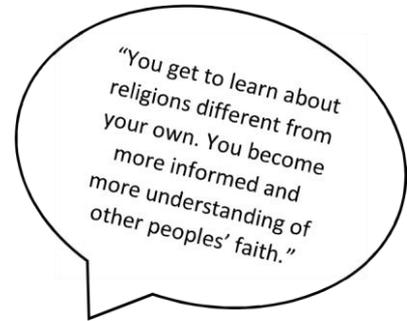
In year 7, pupils firstly complete an introductory unit of work on Beliefs and why it is important to study Religious Studies. This bridges the gap between their varied primary school experiences and expectations of secondary education. In the first few weeks, pupils will sit a Baseline Assessment. This is an exercise that allows us a chance to see what level they are working at.



Once we have questioned what Religious Studies is and the value of having a worldview and knowledge of beliefs and values in a global society, year 7 pupils will look at the concept of Ethics and how we decide what is right or wrong. Topics such as Animal Ethics and Cloning are studied. Pupils then study Biblical themes: creation and sin underpinning the philosophy of Christianity which is later looked at as a religion. The year ends with studying influential figures such as Gandhi and Martin Luther King and how belief has influenced their vision. Pupils should feel more confident about expressing their own beliefs and have greater understanding of why it is important to learn Religious Studies.



Pupils will visit Winchester Cathedral as part of their studies.



## YEAR 8- LEARNING ABOUT RELIGION

Overview- Judaism, Islam, Buddhism

In year 8, pupils continue to build on their introductory units by studying Judaism in depth. This unit uses the covenant as the foundation of the Jewish religion and how in obeying the commandments, Jews adapt their way of life accordingly. Pupils learn that just as there are different groups within Christianity, there are similarly different branches within Judaism and these different interpretations highlight differences in some of their beliefs and actions.

This is followed by a study of Islam. In particular, focus is placed on the 5 pillars of Islam which underpin the religion's key beliefs and actions. Attention is also given to jihad



Finishing off our studies of World Religions in year 8 is a unit on Buddhism. This contrasts to the previous religions studied; Buddhists do not believe in a God and therefore this serves as an interesting look at Eastern philosophy.



## YEAR 9- LEARNING FROM RELIGION

Overview- Reality, Holocaust, Values

In year 9, pupils will start the year by questioning what it means for something to be real. We delve in to studying the great philosopher Plato and his analogy of the cave. From this we look at the Christian perspective on the qualities of God and the question of why we suffer.

This is followed by an in depth study of The Holocaust and the responses to this unimaginable time in particular for the Jewish people. It is possible for pupils to go to Amsterdam on a trip to the Anne Frank museum and the Imperial War Museum in London.





The year is finished off by looking at the concept of a soul and how we decide what is right or wrong. Pupils enjoy studying these challenging ethical and philosophical questions and looking at how we make decisions.

### Assessments for Key Stage 3 (Year 7-9)

There are regular assessments in Religious Studies for pupils. These take place after the end of a topic or key question, roughly every 4-5 weeks. Assessments allow pupils to monitor their progress and set targets for themselves. In doing so, a level of persistence and independence is created, enabling pupils to see the big picture through demonstrating understanding of the unit covered. If pupils are focused and enthusiastic in class, the assessments should be non-threatening.

### GCSE Religious Studies

GCSE RS is an optional course at Kings'. Pupils will pick it as one of their option choices at the end of year 9. RS is a popular GCSE and receives strong results each year.



Pupils study the OCR Exam Board specifications. The GCSE is broken up into 3 different papers. The content included is listed below:

- Christian beliefs and practices
- Islam beliefs and practices
- Religion, Philosophy & Ethics:
  - Relationships & Family
  - The existence of God
  - Religion, peace, conflict & justice
  - Dialogue between religious and non-religious beliefs and attitudes.



The course is fast paced and engaging. Pupils learn to evaluate and analyse at a high level and become accustomed to expressing opposing views eloquently, both verbally and written. The course is complimented with trips

to Krakow and a Shi'a Mosque. The OCR GCSE puts pupils intending to do A Level Religious Studies or Philosophy in a strong position. Many of our pupils continue their studies at Peter Symonds or Barton Peveril.

All pupils in KS4 complete statutory RE through bespoke days.

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We really hope that this information booklet has given you more of an insight into Religious Studies at Kings'. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or comments.

Miss S Banwell  
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