

Philosophy, Religion and Ethics – Aims/Intent

Philosophy, Religion and Ethics is designed to encourage a more profound insight into the world around us and the part that we play in ensuring sound community cohesion and thoughtful understanding and tolerance of others. This subject offers students a unique opportunity to learn about other religions and cultures in order to prepare themselves for the future. We encourage students to develop an inquisitive approach to understanding religious and non- religious beliefs and practices through a varied and inclusive curriculum.

Our intent is to provide opportunities for students to:

1. Gain an understanding of Atheism and Humanism.
2. To understand secularism and its impact on modern society
3. Gain an understanding of differences and similarities between different beliefs and practices of different religious traditions and the impact these have on believers.
4. To highlight the impact of beliefs and practices of non- religious practices.
5. To question whether we must be religious in order to make sound moral judgements and decisions.
6. To nurture a healthy regard and respect for different religions and lifestyles.
7. To explore the impact our moral decisions have on others.
8. To enjoy asking 'big' philosophical questions such as questions surrounding the existence of God.
9. To recognise our crucial role in the global community and within our own community.

Implementation

PRE Education offers a unique opportunity to think about life's most profound questions and to explore new ways of thinking. The very fundamentals of what it means to be human are explored and students are encouraged to express their points of view freely (and politely) and celebrate their differences. At GCSE, students focus on Christianity and Islam and are further explored through themes at KS3. There are 3 subject specialists teaching PRE across the school.

Key stage 3:

Year 7 topics covered:

- World religions – we study the basics of all of the 6 major world religions such as Islam and Christianity. This study incorporates an exploration of teaching and practices which are later developed during the study of the GCSE.

Year 8 topics covered:

- The Big Questions (Philosophy and Ethics)
 - Is religion good for society?
 - If God exists, why do we suffer?
 - Can Jesus' Golden Commandment apply to non- Christians?

Key stage 3/ 4 GCSE:

Eduqas Specification

Religious Education Full Course is compulsory for all students. Students will embark on an in- depth study of the beliefs and practices within both Christianity and Islam.

There are four ethical themes which are taught through the lens of Christianity and Islam.

The themes are:

- Theme 1: Issues of Relationships
- Theme 2: Issues of Life and Death
- Theme 3: Issues of Good and Evil

- Theme 4: Issues of Human Rights.

Through studying these themes, students will develop their higher order thinking skills and engage in the study of ethical dilemmas and big philosophical questions. Students will understand the impact of religious beliefs and teachings in the global community and within their own immediate community. They will understand the nature and impact of non- religious beliefs and the importance of living in a multi- faith society and what it means to live in a society with secularist values.

Key stage 5:

OCR Specification

This is a new A level as of 2020.

OCR Religious Studies is a challenging and thought- provoking course that inspires an advanced level of critical and analytical engagement. It is divided into 3 components; Philosophy, Ethics and Christian Development.

The course covers topics such as the traditional teachings of the Ancient Greek Philosophers on the Body and Soul, arguments for the existence of God and Religious Experience. The Ethics component explores topics including Business Ethics, Utilitarianism and Meta Ethics. Christian Development covers topics such as Christianity and Feminism, Secularism and the Nature of God.

Impact

The impact of PRE is to instill a healthy and inquisitive nature in our students. We aim to provide a sound, well structured and thoughtful insight into world religions, non- religious traditions and secularism as equally important lifestyles and traditions.

We will encourage wonder and a desire for knowledge that pupils can carry through life. We will develop our students’ higher order thinking skills and promote an analytical and evaluative approach to problem solving.

Students will harbour respect for others and embrace the school values that extend beyond school life and equip them with the Christian values upheld in the school.

Enrichment opportunities-

School visits to the Imperial War Museum, the Ashmolean Museum and Candlelight Conferences on Philosophy and Ethics for A level.

Debate clubs

Guest speakers