

# **Religious Studies**

## **Rationale of KS3 Curriculum**

Key Stage 3 teaching follows broadly the guidance of the Hertfordshire Agreed Syllabus. The emphasis is that students should learn from and about religions; assessment of student work is based on these criteria.

Students follow a series of modules to develop their understanding of the impact of secular and religious beliefs such as Christianity and other major world religions and belief systems. Students are introduced to philosophical concepts such as: What does it mean to be human? Why do people suffer? and to study in depth the actions and reactions to secular and religious leaders. Students are expected to question their own values and responses to the world they live in. They are encouraged to formulate and express their own views, and are expected to listen carefully and respect the views of others. They are taught to be 'participants' and to be global citizens responding to and being affected by topical issues and news stories.; such issues also influence the delivery of the RS curriculum.

Each year, Year 7 students participate in a trip to a Sikh Temple and a group of Year 9 students represent the school at a Holocaust Memorial Service, where they engage with a holocaust survivor.

At GCSE, students have the option to continue to develop and apply what they have learnt at KS3. The Full course is based on a study of Christianity and Judaism and includes a comparison of religious beliefs and worship practices as well as moral issues such as responses to capital punishment and the changing roles of women.

Opportunities for analytical thought are further developed at A Level where students are encouraged to develop strong arguments by applying principles from theories they have studied.

Students are required to gain knowledge and understanding of religious and non-religious perspectives on a range of philosophical and ethical issues. Students are also taught to analyse ideas critically and give supporting reasons for their own views. They have the chance to share views with visiting speakers such as rabbis and church youth leaders.