

Department Information:

Philosophy and Religion (PR) is taught once a week in Years 7, 8 and 9, ensuring that students have a clear understanding of their own faith and that of others within their local, national and global community. This year students will study Buddhism, Humanism, Philosophical approaches to the question 'Is there a God?', Inspirational People of Faith and Pilgrimage.

ACHIEVE in the curriculum:

Ambition as students explore a range of religions and new concepts, in particular looking at Buddhism in depth which is something revisited in year 9 and GCSE.

Integrity as students understand different ways of life and respecting other's beliefs and opinions.

Versatility through looking at certain topics through different religious lenses such as Inspirational People of Faith and Pilgrimage.

Curriculum Aims & Intent:

The year 8 curriculum allows students to develop on their knowledge from year 7 and explore some new concepts from Philosophy and Religion in depth. Students begin the year with an in-depth study of Buddhism and the key teachings here, providing them with the knowledge to support them as they move into the year 9 curriculum. Students are then able to use their knowledge from year 7 to support them in the topics of Humanism, Does God exist, Inspirational people of faith and Pilgrimage. By the end of year 8 students will have a greater understanding into key religious beliefs, important people within religion and religious practice. Throughout the year students will continue to develop on their written skills from year 7, such as evaluative essay writing.

Resources:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zh3rkqt>

<https://www.thenational.academy/teachers/programmes/religious-education-secondary-ks3-1/units>

How we keep parents informed:

Year 8 - Progress reports are published 4 times per year, in October, December, April and July, with a face-to-face parents' evening in March.

How parents can help their child:

Support to ensure home learning is completed for the deadline and organisation.

Support with understanding of subject specific key words.

Developing written literacy, ensuring any home learning where necessary is completed in full sentences and using paragraphs.

What we study and when:

Term	Unit, Topic Or Summary Of Work Covered	Knowledge, Understanding & Skills Developed	ACHIEVE / Personal Development Focus	How The Work Is Assessed	Careers Links
1	Buddhism Beliefs and Teachings	An introduction into the life of the Buddha and founding of the religion. Key teachings taught by the Buddha such as the Eightfold	Ambitious – To explore the Buddhist religion in depth and to understand	Students will complete an assessment in lesson at the end of term one which explore their	Students will explore what careers would be accepted by Buddhists and which may be
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		Path, the Four Noble Truths, Karma and rebirth.	challenging new concepts. Collaborate – Students will work together to create a game that reflects the Buddhist concept of samsara. Integrity – Students will reflect this value throughout the unit when learning and understanding a new way of life.	understanding of the life of the Buddha in depth. Students will produce a creative piece of work at the end of term 2 which will be peer assessed based off key criteria.	excluded based on their religious beliefs.
3	Humanism	This develops on the introduction to Humanism that pupils had in year 7, studying in further detail the Humanist worldview. The topic will focus on the five key Humanist themes which are: human nature and potential; using science to understand the natural world; one life and the freedom to find happiness; using empathy; and human responsibility.	Versatility – Students will explore the Humanist approach to life and analyse the contrasts with religious approaches. Integrity – This will be shown by students throughout the unit when studying personal belief.	Students will complete an assessment at the end of the term which will include a variety of question styles, in timed conditions.	
4	Does God Exist?	This unit delves into a Big question, drawing on their year 7 learning, and looks at various responses to the question ‘Does God Exist?’. It will include the study of philosophical arguments such as the design argument, human morality and miracles.	Versatility – To understand ultimate questions cannot have definitive answers, students will be exploring different perspectives of big questions. Integrity – To be respectful of other student’s personal beliefs and ideas about the existence of God	Students will complete an evaluative piece of writing exploring some of the arguments from lesson which will be teacher marked with feedback but no assessment grade here.	

			Happy – To debate ideas with fellow students.		
5	Inspirational People of Faith	This unit takes an in-depth study of inspirational people of different faith backgrounds, such as Elizabeth Fry, Muhammad Ali and Oscar Romero. The unit looks at the religious beliefs of each individual and how religion impacted their choices to contribute to society.	Integrity – students will be exploring people of faith throughout history and will be expected to explore these in a mature manner.	At the end of the unit students will choose their own inspirational person of faith to research and complete an extended piece of writing as their assessment about this person. This will be marked and graded.	Looking at how one's faith can influence and impact their career and how it inspires them to improve aspects of society.
6	Pilgrimage	After an introduction to pilgrimage and recap from their Year 7 learning of Islam, students will explore different religious pilgrimages in depth. For example, this will include the Golden Temple, Lourdes and Bodh Gaya.	Integrity – students will be exploring an important religious practice. Endurance – students will strive to gain an understanding of dedication it takes to make some of these journeys.	This unit will not have a graded piece of work. Instead students will produce work that is to be peer assessed, and then also an essay style piece of writing that will be teacher marked with feedback.	Travel agent and pilgrimage agent for places that we study.