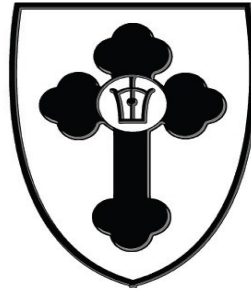


RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**William Brookes
School**



RE

**Parents' Guide
2010 - 2011**



MAIN AIMS

The RE Department's Aims should be seen as complementing the School Aims.

- To help students recognise the influence that religion has had, and continues to have, on our lives, and the values which society seeks to uphold and transmit.
- To help students to understand the nature of religious practices and belief.
- To encourage awareness of, and respect for, religious differences within our multi-cultural society, and our local community.
- To develop an awareness of a spiritual dimension to life and the effect that it may have on individuals.
- To help students recognise the variety of ways in which religious belief can be expressed, through language, religious traditions and behaviour.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Staff:

Miss C Watkins

Mr R Pugh

Mrs L Ravenscroft

Mr M Morris

Subject Leader

also House Leader for Beijing

also SENCO & Subject Leader

for Psychology

Teaching Assistant



Objectives

To enable students to have knowledge of the central and distinctive teaching of the Christian faith, based on the life and teaching of Jesus Christ.

To enable students to understand that much of their environment provides strong evidence that religion is practised to a large extent.

To enable students to enter into the beliefs and actions of believers and to appreciate the connection between belief and both the personal and corporate expression of religious practice, as well as the variety of that expression, even within one religious tradition.

To enable students to appreciate and understand, without premature evaluation, the variety of forms and yet often common elements and intentions embodied within them, in which different religious traditions and cultures observe the rites of passage.

To encourage the students to think and articulate their thoughts in written, oral and other forms, concerning religious insights, experiences and practices in comparison to their own.

Methodology

Emphasis is placed on student participation in the programme, which is both flexible and challenging. Study is supported by incoming speakers, art, music, drama, video and ICT. Particular attention is also given to visits as a means of expanding the students' horizons. Students are taken to places of worship in Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Telford in order to gain a personal insight into religious faith and practice.

CURRICULUM

Our RE programme is forward-thinking, vibrant, relevant, educational and enjoyable.

KEY STAGE 3

Year 7: Why is RE important, Morality through art and the life and teachings of Jesus, Christmas, Founders and Leaders, both religious and secular.

Year 8: Religious tolerance through Sikhism and Islam, The power and influence of Jesus, birth, life and death, Lifestyles -an evaluation of Buddhist life, The Amish v's Modern society.

Year 9: Does God exist? - a philosophical debate between religion and science, Evil and Suffering, Rites of passage and initiation ceremonies.

Throughout the key stage six religions covered are, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism.

KEY STAGE 4

In Years 10 and 11 our Enhancement programme incorporates a core RE course, which includes a series of RE modules covering a range of philosophical and ethical issues. Topics such as the sanctity of life, prejudice, caring for others, suffering, the environment and the nature of belief challenge students to consider a range of responses and formulate personal opinions.

Philosophy and Applied Ethics is also offered as an option at GCSE in Years 10 and 11. Students explore controversial issues such as abortion, cloning, life after death as well as critically analysing how Religion is portrayed in the media. Student develop high order thinking skills of interpretation and evaluation when applying both a religious and personal perspective opinion to philosophical and ethical issues.

AS/A2 level Religious Studies

This course involves Religious Ethics and the Philosophy of Religion. It is both a challenging and popular course, building upon vital skills such as analysis, evaluation and expression needed for further educations and the world of employment.

“The principal aim of Religious Education is to help young people achieve a knowledge and understanding of religious experiences, insights, beliefs and practices. This will enable them to deepen or realise their own beliefs and respect the freedom of other people to hold beliefs different from their own.”