

# GCSE Religious Studies

## Why study Religious Studies?

Religious Studies GCSE focuses on you valuing yourselves and others as unique human beings. It promotes self-awareness, respect, open-mindedness, appreciation and wonder at the universe in which we live. Religious Studies supports you in asking the most important questions in life, asked by people for millions of years. You will explore different philosophical viewpoints, both religious and non-religious including your own.



## What will you be learning?

The course includes two main units each worth 50% of the full GCSE. Each unit is assessed via a 1 ¾ hour exam. There is no coursework.

- Unit 1 *The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices* from Christianity and Buddhism
- Unit 2 *Thematic studies* on four Philosophical and Ethical themes

Religious Studies GCSE also requires you to consider your own position and supports you in developing reasoned and justified conclusions.

## What are the lessons like?

Lessons often involve debate and discussion, sometimes following from a stimulus such as a relevant news story, text or clip from a recent film. Thinking skills exercises are used to encourage you to think in new and creative ways. Sometimes visitors from different religious communities are invited in to share and discuss their beliefs with you. Much learning is through collaborative group work and you will be supported in developing your essay skills through writing exercises.

*“It’s really interesting. You feel like you’re becoming more informed about how the world really is as you’re challenged to think deeply about important issues and the big questions of life.”* James Year 10

## What can it lead to?

If you have done GCSE Religious Studies, you can go on to study A level Religious Studies or Philosophy in the sixth form, but you would also find it a good preparation for all sorts of other subjects that use similar skills e.g. Psychology, Economics, Sociology, etc. These skills include:

- How to interpret and evaluate pieces of information;
- How to communicate and apply your knowledge;
- How to explore and analyse the key features of the different viewpoints studied, engaging with them intellectually and responding personally;
- How to debate and discuss current and relevant issues in our global society; Critical thinking and problem solving.

## Want to know more?

You can speak to Mrs Montgomery, Miss Teggart or Mr Rushton to find out more.