



Religious Studies

Welcome to the Religious Studies department

Here at Dormston Religious Studies is taught to all students from Year 7 -10.

At the end of year 10 all student sit the Full Course GCSE Religious Studies (AQA)

During their time at Dormston all lessons are to explore and express opinion about belief and morals, we do not “convert” but we do educate. This fits into to our School Values as it supports the concepts of: Effort, Knowledge, Respect and Responsibility.

Your Religious Studies teachers are:

Mrs Siviter-Coupland (Curriculum Leader for Religious Studies)

Mr McLaughlin (Deputy Head of Avon House)

Mrs Bassan (Assistant Head teacher)

At Key stage three Year 7 and 8 we offer a range of themes and religious responses for the pupils to investigate, discuss and challenge.

Year 7:

Term one:

Topic 1- Where do we look for God?

- Faith and Affirmation
- Nature of God
- Nature of Allah
- The Cosmological Argument
- The Design Argument
- Experiential Argument
- God does not exist
- Are miracles real?
- Myth and Symbolism
- Creation
- Creation and Science

Year 7 Skills:

Respect

Foundation Knowledge

Exploring unusual religion

Empathy

Discussion

AO1 – Knowledge and description.

1,2,4 mark

A02 Basic for and against reasoning to lay foundation for evaluation.

5 mark 12 mark questions.

Topic 2- The Children of Abraham:

- The importance of the 5 Books of Moses
- How the Bible can be interpreted by religious believers
- The story of Creation and Adam & Eve
- The significance of Creation and Adam & Eve to believers
- The story of Noah
- The significance of the Prophet Noah

- The Tower of Babel, and interpretations of this story
- The story of Abraham, including the sacrifice of Isaac
- The Abrahamic Covenant and its importance to believers
- The stories associated with Jacob and Esau
- The significance of the stories of Jacob and Esau
- The story of Joseph and his brothers
- The interpretation of the story of Joseph within religious faith



Term 2:

Topic 1: Who Was Jesus?

- Who was Jesus?
- Jesus as Incarnation of God
- Prophecy of Jesus’ Birth
- Jesus’ life examples (Parables)
- Crucifixion= leading to sin and salvation
- Resurrection and ascension=
- Celebrations (Christmas /Easter)

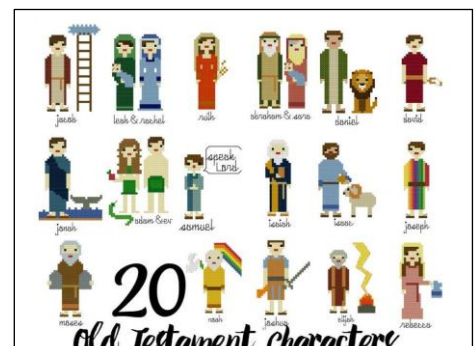
Topic 2 – The Church:

- To explore the external and internal design and furnishings of a church
- To compare denominational differences in church design
- To examine how and why Christians pray
- To explore the meaning of the Lord’s Prayer
- To compare public and private prayer in Christianity
- To differentiate between liturgical, non-liturgical and charismatic styles of worship
- The role of the church in the local and worldwide community
- The role of the church in the local community, including food banks and street pastors.

Term Three:

Topic 1: Buddhism:

- To explore the birth narrative of the Buddha
- To examine symbolism surrounding the Buddha’s birth
- To examine the impact that the Buddha’s parents and upbringing had on the future of his life
- To understand the importance of the 4 Sightings
- To examine the significant events in the Buddha’s journey to enlightenment
- To explore the concept of anicca, anatta and dukkha, and Buddhist teaching on the 4 Noble truths
- To examine Buddhist teaching on the eightfold path
- To understand how and why Buddhists meditate
- To explore the role of Buddhist monks, nuns and laity
- To examine how and why Buddhists use shrines in worship
- To examine why Buddhists might go on pilgrimage to Bodhgaya
- To understand what a Buddhist may do during pilgrimage

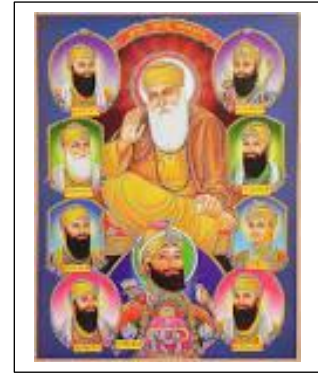


Year 8:

Term 1:

Topic 1: Caring for others:

- The sanctity of human life
- Poverty and caring for the poor and disadvantaged
- The role of one religious voluntary aid agency
- Equality, prejudice and discrimination
- Racism and Xenophobia
- Sexism
- Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia
- Religious discrimination
- Disability discrimination
- The treatment of criminals (including imprisonment & death)
- The value of animal life (including vivisection & vegetarianism)
- The value of planet earth (including pollution & climate change)



Topic 2: Islam

- What is Islam?
- Divisions of Islam
- Understanding the Five Pillars.
- Shahadah
- Salah
- Zakah
- Sawm
- Hajj
- Features of the Mosque
- Islam and the Environment

Respect

AO1 and AO2

Foundation Knowledge

Ethics

Empathy

Consider influence and impact.

Discussion to develop understanding:

4 mark

Reasoning and offer evidence:

5 mark

Justification of answers and conclusions

12 Mark

Term 2 Topic 1: The History of Sikhism

- To explore the meanings of Sikh symbols
- To examine the reasons why religions may use symbolism
- To explore the life and teachings of Guru Nanak
- To examine the development of Sikhism through the guru lineage
- To examine the events of Anandpur in 1699
- To understand how and why Sikhs celebrate Vaisakkhi
- To examine the importance of the Dev Guru Granth Sahiib Ji
- To examine how and why Sikhs use a gurdwara
- To examine Sikh teachings on God and the Mool Mantra
- To explore Sikh teachings on life after death
- To examine the impact of the gurus on Sikh life today

Term 3: The After Life

- The afterlife
- Christianity- Heaven and Hell and Purgatory –Immortality of the soul and Full body Resurrection.
- Islam- Akhirah- Heaven and Hell- Barzakh

- Judaism and Sheol
- Hinduism/ Sikhism and reincarnation
- Buddhism and Rebirth
- Non religious evidence for the afterlife

For Religious Studies Key stage 4 begins in year 9:

We follow AQA Religious Studies Full course Spec A. (please click the link below to see the course)

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-a-8062>

For paper 1 the pupils do an in-depth study of Beliefs and Practices in Christianity and Islam.

For paper 2 the pupils study four themes: **Human Relationships, Life, The Existence of God, Peace and Conflict**. These are studied from Primarily a Christian view, but for theme B and D we look at Buddhism also and Theme C Atheism.

In year 9 we deliver the key beliefs of Islam and Christianity intermittently with the Study of Theme A (Human Relationships) and B (Life).

In year 10 we complete Theme C (The existence of God) and D (War, Peace and conflict) with the study of key practices carried out by the fore-mentioned two religions.

Respect

GCSE Start intent to complete in Year 10

Beliefs and Practices in Christianity and Islam as well as ethical and Philosophical themes.

Ao1:

Developing on foundation from Year 7.

Ao2

Empathy

Looking at impact from year 8

Building on Reason evidence conclusions and

Justifications:

1,2,4,5,12 mark question practice.