

## Religious Studies

### KS3

Religious Studies at All Saints Academy Plymouth is a contemporary and engaging subject that seeks to inspire, motivate and challenge every student. All KS3 students have one hour a fortnight of time tabled RS lessons over a two year period. During this time students extend their understanding of Christianity, Buddhism, and Sikhism in appropriate depth in accordance to the Devon, Plymouth and Torbay Locally Agreed Syllabus. An enquiry led approach to learning is adopted providing the opportunity for students to revisit prior learning in RS and apply this alongside newly learnt material to the key themes being studied. A safe space is provided to facilitate and encourage students to reflect, discuss and debate a range of ultimate questions and moral issues.

### Y7

In autumn term 1 year 7 students reflect on the impact of religion and belief in the world, via a series of ultimate questions including; how did the world begin? Is there a God? Why is there is evil and suffering in the world? What is the meaning of life? What happens when we die? During autumn term 2, students study key Sikh beliefs, teachings and practices and their basis in Sikh sources of wisdom and authority. In the spring term students consider both the importance of inter-faith dialogue and also the tensions that exist within and between religions. This involves investigating instances of discrimination and persecution and how community cohesion can be achieved. In the summer term all year 7 students are entered into the NATRE Spirited Arts competition.

### Y8

In autumn term 1 year 8 students consider how the media portrays religion with a focus on religious stereotypes. Students then investigate how religious believers and organisations use different types of media to reach out to the public and evaluate the effectiveness of these approaches. During autumn 2, students study key Buddhist beliefs, teachings and practices and their basis in Buddhist sources of wisdom and authority. In the spring term the theme; Global issues/environment enables students to explore different attitudes people have towards the environment and animals, the effects of pollution and role of stewardship and sustainable living. In the summer term all year 8 students are entered into the NATRE Spirited Arts competition.

### KS4

At All Saints Academy Plymouth, all KS4 students have the opportunity to study Religious Studies (Full course) at GCSE, students have two hours a week of time tabled RS lessons over a three-year period. The chosen accredited qualification is the AQA RS Specification

A (8062) which offers a range of faith -specific options and a variety of relevant and contemporary themes, ensuring students have a diverse choice of intriguing subjects to explore and discuss.

Link to AQA GCSE RS Specification

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/rs/specifications/AQA-8062-SP-2016.PDF>

## Y9

Students study Component 1: The study of religious beliefs, teachings and practices (50% of GCSE)

Four themes studied:

- Christian beliefs
- Christian practices
- Muslim beliefs
- Muslim practices

## Y10

Students study Component 2: Thematic studies (50% of GCSE)

Students are encouraged to discuss contemporary and controversial issue from a religious and non-religious perspective.

Four themes studied:

- Theme A: Relationships and families
- Theme B: Religion and Life
- Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict
- Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment

## Y11

Students revisit and extend their learning of selected elements from Component 1: The study of religious beliefs, teachings and practices and Component 2: Thematic studies.