**Curriculum Information for Religion Philosophy and Ethics**

Religious Education is taught within the Humanities department alongside Geography and History. Whilst these subjects hold their own distinct qualities, they are all intrinsically linked by people; how they have shaped the world, the environment and our identity. Our aim is to develop students’ understanding of these links and for them to gain an appreciation of the world in which they live. With teaching and learning at the core, we seek to develop inquisitive, interested and enthusiastic young people who have an ability to ask questions of the world around them.

Religious Education helps students to learn about a range of issues. For example they understand world religions, contemporary moral issues and different cultures. This enriches their understanding and helps them to develop as an individual.

At Key Stage 3 students study all the main religious groups alongside Humanist views. They also explore the wider philosophical questions such as ‘why is there suffering’ and ‘is there life after death’ and explore key ethical issues like euthanasia. Not only do students study key ideas and thinkers who have shaped the different views of the world, they are also encouraged to make informed arguments and opinions and to form their own coherent personal views.

At Key Stage 4 students can either study Philosophy and Ethics for as part of the OCR GCSE specification or as part of a non-assessed course. The GCSE covers an understanding to how Christians and Buddhists practice their religion and respond to ethical questions and debates. The GCSE is also based on four main themes; Relationships and families Religion and life Religion, crime and punishment Religion, peace and conflict. If students don’t opt for the subject at GCSE then they study Religion and worldviews once a fortnight looking at themes like community cohesion and rights and responsibilities.

At Key Stage 5 students can study Religion Philosophy and Ethics as an A-Level following the AQA specification. The course covers a wide range of philosophical, religious and ethical ideas including the ancient Greek philosophy of Plato and Aristotle, consideration of key ideas in Christianity and whether they are relevant today and how we make moral decisions about complicated issues such as euthanasia or sex. If the subject isn’t chosen at A-Level then students still cover key themes and issues as part of the PSHE programme.

The Humanities department is committed to encouraging and maintaining a love of Religion Philosophy and Ethics and as a result we offer a range of enrichment opportunities which vary year on year. For example we run collapsed days where a range of religious speakers visit the school. We have community links with local churches and organise visits to local Buddhist centres, Cathedrals and other religious sites.

**GCSE Philosophy specification:** AQA Specification A

**A Level Philosophy specification:** OCR