

Craig Ormerod Associates Ltd.

Subject Overview: Religious Education (KS3)

Pupils in Years 7 and 8 receive a minimum of a single one-hour lesson of Religious Studies per week. In Year 9, this increases to a minimum of two lessons per week.

YEAR 7

The main topics covered during Year 7 are:

- Comparative Study: *What is Religion?*
- Christianity: *An Introduction*
- Islam: *An Introduction*
- Worship
- Key Terms: Atheism, theism, agnosticism, monotheism, polytheism

The Year 7 curriculum is designed to bridge the gap between pupils' primary school experience of RS and the more demanding nature of secondary studies.

We seek to provide pupils with the skills needed to build their knowledge and appreciation of a wide range of core religious beliefs. Pupils are encouraged to engage in a series of critical investigations into religions and faith, and to explain - and justify - their findings and opinions.

Pupils sit regular formal assessments which include an introductory baseline test. We also conduct formative assessments throughout the year by way of written, verbal and lesson-based feedback.

YEAR 8

The main topics covered during Year 8 are:

- Modern Leaders, Religious Figures and Codes of Conduct
- Judaism: *An Introduction*
- Marriage and Family
- Hinduism: *An Introduction*
- Origins of the Universe

The Year 8 curriculum is intended to build on what students have learned previously, whilst providing them with more challenging and thought-provoking content. Pupils will be expected to demonstrate more sophisticated skills of explanation and justification, and in doing so provide balanced evidence and critical responses to ideas concerning the nature of God.

Pupils sit regular formal assessments, which include an art-based project designed to give pupils a more creative way to present their interpretation of God's depiction in the accounts of the Old Testament. We also conduct formative assessments throughout the year by way of written, verbal and lesson-based feedback.

YEAR 9

The main topics covered during Year 9 are:

- Buddhism: *An Introduction*
- Crime and Punishment
- Charity: *Wealth and Poverty*
- Sikhism: *An Introduction*
- Life After Death

The Year 9 curriculum is another step up for pupils, who are now expected to engage in critical reflection and philosophical analysis of even more challenging subject matter. Many of life's great unanswered questions are addressed, and pupils' ability to provide a rational and balanced account of their findings is enhanced yet further.

Pupils sit regular formal assessments, which include essay-style questions designed to familiarise them with the requirements of a GCSE exam paper, as well as individual and group-based presentations intended to spark critical debate. We also conduct formative assessments throughout the year by way of written, verbal and lesson-based feedback.