

Subject:	Religious Studies Intent:
RS	It is our intent for the Religious Studies element of our school curriculum to engage, inspire, challenge and encourage pupils, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to answer challenging philosophical and ethical questions, explore different religious beliefs, values and traditions and develop a more rigorous understanding of selected religious traditions, beliefs and practices that are followed in our multi-cultural society.

The Big Questions...

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ultimate Questions : Who is God? Does God exist? How do we describe God? Did God design the world? Was there a first cause? Did we evolve? Was there a big bang? - Sikhism : Who are the Sikhs? Who was Guru Nanak and how did he start a world faith? Why do Sikhs visit the Gurdwara? Why did Guru Gobind Singh pretend to kill five of his followers? What happens in a Gurdwara? - Judaism: Who are the Jews? Why is Moses important? Are the Ten Commandments still relevant? What is the Torah scroll and how is it used in worship? Why are Synagogues still important? Why do Jews wear special clothes to pray? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Who was Jesus? Where did Jesus grow up? What is a parable and is it a good way to teach a lesson? Did Jesus perform miracles? How was Jesus killed? Did Jesus come back to life? What does this mean for Christians? - Buddhism : Who was the Buddha? Why did a prince in Nepal leave his palace? Why is there suffering in the world? How does meditation help Buddhists to become better people? What are the key teachings of Buddhism? What are the four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path? How do Buddhist monks live? - Inspirational figures: What is discrimination? What are human rights? What do we mean by prejudice and racism? Who was Malala and who were the Taliban? Why did they prevent girls attending school? Who was Martin Luther King and how did work for equal rights? Who was Gandhi? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prejudice and the Holocaust: Why are people prejudiced? What leads to discrimination and how did Hitler turn Germany against the Jews? Who was Władysław Szpilman and how did his life change in WW2? What happened to the Jews on Europe under Hitler? Why did God allow the Holocaust to happen? Is it right to forgive or should you take revenge? Could the Holocaust happen again? - Religion and Ethics: What is the sanctity of life? Is it ever ok to take a life? Is abortion ever a moral choice? Is the death penalty a suitable punishment for murder? Is euthanasia the same as murder? Should you use genetics to design a baby? - Islam: What was life like in Arabia before Islam? Why do Muslims follow Muhammad? What are the five pillars of Islam? Why do Muslims prayer towards Makkah and the Ka'ba? What is the value of praying five times a day? Why do Muslims travel to Saudi Arabia once in their lifetime?

What skills will I develop?

- Students will appreciate the significance of holy places, beliefs, traditions and culture around the world.
- They will be able to confidently articulate their understanding of the past both in academic writing as well as through debate and discussion. Sanctity of Life, Science & Ethics.
- They will appreciate the ethnic and cultural diversity of our community and thereby become inclusive members of our society. Religion, Human Rights & Social Justice.
- Through reading and writing, they will develop a critical and enquiring mind, which appreciates the impact of individual endeavour and shows empathy with the past. Global Issues, Interfaith Dialogue.

What great resources can I use?

- www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize contains great links to all materials studies as well as test you can take online
- The PiXL Key words app is fantastic for checking key terms and topping up knowledge. The BBC religion homepage and the @RSYateley twitter feeds and YouTube Channels have links and resources.
- ShowMyHomework has a wealth of low stakes quizzes to test knowledge on each section of the course.

How will I be assessed?

At Key Stage 3 work is regularly assessed through the completion of exam style questions and knowledge testing on ShowMyHomework. Teacher feedback is always given so that pupils can improve their work before moving on to the next section of the course.

Some tasks are graded as GCSE grades in Year 7 and Year 8 and knowledge tests as percentages. This is because we want students to understand that they are on a journey of learning knowledge and developing skills. We comment on What Went Well (WWW) and Even Better If... (EBI) to boost student awareness of their strengths and their areas for development.

Four ways that parents/carers can help...

1. Visiting places of worship such as Churches, Mosques and Gurdwaras in London. Attending the RS trips to places of worship. .
2. By engaging in conversations with your child about current ethical topics in the news and media, abortion, euthanasia, crime and punishment and extremism are often debated in the press.
3. Read the 'His Dark Materials Trilogy' by Philip Pullman – full of religious and ethical themes to stimulate discussion.
4. By contacting following @RSYateley for ideas and articles to discuss at home. Email alexander.bristow@yateley.hants.sch.uk for further recommendations.