

Why study Religious Education?

RE plays a significant role in the personal development of children and young people. At its heart is the intention to enable children and young people to become "religiously educated" in order to face the demands of the contemporary world. What might a "religiously educated person" be? (Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus) The RE department is committed to providing a challenging curriculum from the outset, providing students with the opportunity to explore their sense of self, their beliefs and values and how these compare to others'. The Department follows the latest Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus (2017) principal aim to engage pupils with questions arising from the study of religion and beliefs so as to promote their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

Year 7

In Year 7 students undertake an in-depth study of two world faiths, these being Christianity and Buddhism. In the Christianity unit of study students explore Christianity today, looking at questions and issues such as:

- How do Christians Worship?
- Who is Jesus?
- What does Christianity say about life and death issues?

In the Buddhism Unit of Study students explore Buddhism today, looking at questions such as:

- Who was Buddha?
- What is meditation?
- What does Buddhism teach about the cause of suffering?

Year 8

In Year 8 students undertake an in-depth study of two more world faiths, these being Sikhism and Islam. In the Sikhism unit of study students explore Sikhism today looking at questions and issues such as:

- Who was Guru Nanak?
- What is the role of the Gurdwara?
- What does Sikhism teach about Human Rights?

Year 9-11 GCSE Study WJEC/Eduqas exam Board (9-1) Religious Studies Route A

This is currently a core subject at Pittville School. However this is a popular subject that students find engaging and it gives them the opportunity to explore life and our values in depth. The course is made up of 3 components:

1. Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World including topics such as relationships, life and death, good and evil and human rights
2. Study of Christianity
3. Study of a World Faith – Islam

GCSE Religious Studies provides opportunities for students to understand more about the world, the religious challenges it faces and their place within it. Following this GCSE course will deepen understanding of religions and their effect on society. It will develop students' competence in a wide range of skills and approaches and enable them to become religiously informed, thoughtful and engaged citizens. This course provides a solid basis for further study in this and related subject areas. In addition, it provides a coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study for students who do not progress to further study.

Method of Assessment - 100% Final Exam

Paper 1: 2hrs. Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World (50%)

Paper 2: 1hr. Christianity (25%)

Paper 3: 1hr. Islam (25%)

Possible Post 16 Career Routes

When students leave Pittville they will meet and work alongside people with outlooks and beliefs different to their own. Religious Studies gives them a better chance of understanding their views and being able to explain their own. Many of the skills developed in this course are invaluable in further study and to employers. Being able to evaluate opinions; understand sources, interpret language, symbolism and metaphor, being able to clearly express your ideas and develop effective argument are all highly valued skills. These skills would be especially valued in careers such as News and Media, politics and local government, counselling, public service such as the police and law and order and many other roles in society.