



## Religious Education: Curriculum Overview

### Year 8

Half Term	Topic studied	What will I learn?	How will I be assessed?
Year 8 Autumn 1	<i>Religion: Do we have a choice?</i>	As the title of this topic suggests, students will explore the concept of freedom of religious belief, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How we are influenced by family and culture into adopting or retaining religious practice.</li> <li>• The reasons why someone might choose to be religious.</li> <li>• The rites of passage which mark this, with particular reference to Baptism and Confirmation within Christianity, and Brit Milah and Bar/Bat Mitzvah within Judaism.</li> </ul>	Students will produce a summative piece of writing which demonstrates an understanding of the topic, but with a focus on contrasts and comparisons between faiths.
Year 8 Autumn 2	Why should we behave?	This topic will explore different beliefs on the afterlife, as well as the various social and moral norms which govern society in much of the world. In particular, students will learn about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ten commandments and how these are reflected in secular law and morality today.</li> <li>• Heaven, Hell and Judgment, with reference to Judaism, Christianity and Islam.</li> <li>• The concepts of Karma and reincarnation, with reference to Hinduism and Buddhism.</li> </ul>	Game Design Task OR Written test with writing frame, which demonstrate an understanding of the similarities and differences between faiths and their views on good moral conduct.
Year 8 Spring 1	Religion & Planet Earth	This unit will give students a chance to explore a topic covered at GCSE level: The Environment. This will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A comparison of the creation stories of different religions.</li> <li>• The concepts of Stewardship and Dominion.</li> <li>• The different attitudes to the use of natural resources.</li> <li>• The relationship between humans and animals.</li> </ul>	Mini-Essay (with writing frame as appropriate) Students will gain a confidence with writing to justify a believe and evaluate different points of view.
Year 8 Spring 2	Religion & Prejudice	Students will learn about the meaning of the terms prejudice & discrimination – words they are likely to have heard with some frequency in the media. This will also include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stereotyping, why do we do this? Is it fair?</li> <li>• Specific prejudices like Racism, Sexism, Ageism and disability.</li> <li>• The Story of the Good Samaritan.</li> <li>• The Law and how we may tackle prejudice and promote harmony today.</li> </ul>	Fact File Focus: Students will focus on just one or two forms of prejudice, explaining why these are an issue, what effect they have, the relative importance of dealing with this ahead of other injustice and the teaching of difference faiths on the subject.
Year 8 Summer 1	Inspirational People	This unit will be an appropriate 'next step' after studying prejudice. This is especially the case in how we examine certain individuals contribution to leadership, Justice and charity and how their lives have been shaped by religious and spiritual beliefs. Topics will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What it means to be 'inspirational'.</li> <li>• Desmond Tutu</li> <li>• Anne Frank</li> <li>• Muhammad Ali</li> </ul>	Written Test: A simple written test with differentiated copies to encourage students to stretch into a zone of proximal development as they consider GCSE options.
Year 8 Summer 2	Is the truth really out there?	This unit primarily seeks to help students hone their evaluative and analytical skills as further preparation for study of many other subjects at GCSE level. Students will be encouraged to debate different ideas and question the information presented to them as well as construct a balanced argument. Topics we shall consider are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the truth just the opposite of lying?</li> <li>• Is there such a thing as magic? Can we really trust our senses?</li> <li>• Why do some people believe in the paranormal?</li> <li>• Is there life beyond earth?</li> <li>• What secrets does water hide?</li> </ul>	Mini Essay OR Graphic Overview  Encouraging Students to take pleasure in the detailed analysis of a specific topic or question, as well as consider the most effective and mature ways to present information to an audience other than themselves.

