

Religious Studies

“What we think, we become” Buddha

Summerhill students will be **valuable members of society**

Summerhill students will gain a fundamental understanding of how religion, philosophy and ethical issues influence human behaviours at an individual, local and global level.

Their experiences at Summerhill will help them to develop positive, open-minded attitudes towards peoples' differences, acting with integrity, empathy and respect. They will be able make informed contributions in a wide range of settings, interacting positively with people from diverse backgrounds.

Students will reflect on their own beliefs to develop a refined sense of right and wrong, with the courage and confidence to challenge inequality or prejudice.

Summerhill students will be **skilled communicators**

Our students will be able to debate controversial topics in a respectful way. They will confidently articulate powerful views with appropriate language and sensitivity towards the viewpoint of others. Students will be effective and respectful listeners, actively processing what they have heard and responding with empathy.

Students will understand a comprehensive range of specialist vocabulary, applying key terminology with accuracy and selecting the language that is most suitable for each context.

Students will develop skills of analysis and high-level written/verbal communication. They will apply these skills to analyse and explain challenging concepts,

Summerhill students will be **knowledgeable**

Our students will develop a strong understanding of the nature and characteristics of religion.

Students will have broad knowledge of major world religions, including key beliefs, practices, sources of wisdom and authority. They will recognise and be able to explain the impact of religious beliefs on the modern-day lives of communities and individuals. Students will confidently identify common features and differences between and within religions, including alternative interpretations of religious texts.

Students will learn about religious, philosophical, moral and ethical questions, including significant viewpoints, the history of approaches to these questions and the diversity of opinions.

Our curriculum is underpinned by four key values:

Courage – doing what is right; being truthful; trying new experiences; taking risks in the pursuit of personal development.

Ambition – having the highest aspirations and expectations of ourselves / others; being brilliant in all we do; having belief that challenges can be overcome with the right attitude and hard work.

Respect – thinking about the way we interact with others; being considerate to ourselves, others and the environment; responding to expectations and working together in teams.

Effort – investing time and energy to achieve success; always giving our best in everything we do; demonstrating resilience.