

# Religious Studies

“Philosophy is the science of truth” *Aristotle*

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

The principle aim of Religious Studies is to explore what people believe and what impact this has on the way they live their life.

Lessons will equip students to gain knowledge, develop understanding and refine their skills in handling questions raised through the study of religion by means of reflecting on their own beliefs and ideas of living.

Students will develop a critical awareness of how religion continues to shape the world through its representations. In turn, this will enable students to make informed contributions in a social setting and will enable them to become more empathetic, open-minded and respectful of peoples' differences.

## Summerhill students will be **skilled communicators**

Students learn to communicate their knowledge and understanding using specialist vocabulary. They will identify and develop an understanding of ultimate questions and ethical issues and be able to engage in a comprehensive discussion/debate with confidence and enthusiasm.

By engaging with challenging religious, philosophical, moral and ethical concepts, high-level subject-specific vocabulary and critical discourse, students will develop skills of analysis and high-level written and verbal communication.

The Religious Studies Curriculum will allow students to voice their opinions in a safe environment. Students will have the chance to listen and respond in an appropriate manner.

## Summerhill students will be **knowledgeable**

The knowledge-rich Religious Studies Curriculum provides students the opportunity to investigate religious beliefs, practices and sources of authority; how religion influences communities, individuals and society and the similarities/differences within and/or between religion and beliefs.

Students will gain knowledge and develop an understanding of their own and others' beliefs and how they relate to each other. It also includes the study of the nature and characteristics of religion.

Religious Studies involves enquiry into, and investigation of, beliefs, teachings and ways of life, sources, practices and forms of expression as well as the skills of interpretation, analysis and explanation.

## 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