

Religious Studies

“Philosophy is the science of truth” Aristotle

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

The principal 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 will 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 will provide students with 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 will also include the study of the nature and characteristics of religion.

Religious Studies will involve 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

Religious Studies Curriculum Overview

| Year | Key Features | Autumn 1 | Autumn 2 | Spring 1 | Spring 2 | Summer 1 | Summer 2 |
|------|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|
| 7 | 1 period per week | Believing in God Introduction Belief and non-belief in God Creation Scientific responses to the Origins of the world Miracles Religious Experiences | Christian Beliefs Introduction Denominations The Trinity Ten Commandments Stewardship Advent Nativity | Major World Religions Timelines People Religious Artefacts Festivals Places of worship The Incarnation | Sikhism Beliefs about God and Prayer Guru Nanak The Khalsa and 5 K's The Golden Temple Sikhism in Britain | Festivals Purpose of festivals Vaisakhi Ramadan and Eid Lent and Holy Week Wesak Holi Hanukkah | Charity Christian teachings through Parables Muslim teachings and practices Charitable organisations Project launch Presentations |
| 8 | 1 period per week | Symbolism Introduction Amnesty International Christian beliefs Jesus Symbols in Christianity Stained Glass Window | Islam Introduction The Qur'an The Five Pillars Hajj Clothing Links between the Abrahamic religions | Judaism Introduction The Torah Abraham Isaac Jerusalem Israel and Palestine | Hinduism and Buddhism Introduction to Hinduism Hindu Holy Texts Polytheism Basic Buddhist beliefs Buddhist Holy Text | Life After Death Christian and Muslim beliefs Judgement, Heaven and Hell Resurrection The soul Reincarnation | Religion and Philosophy An introduction to Ethics God and the Devil Suffering Plato's Cave Beyond our dimensions |
| 9 | Optional 1 x double period per week | Christian Denominations Interpretations of The Bible Catholicism Orthodox Christians Jehovah's Witnesses The Protestant Church Mormonism The Amish | Alternative Religions Atheism Humanism Scientology Rastafarianism Paganism and Christmas Sunni and Shi'a Muslims Conspiracy theories and Illuminati | Religion, Ethics and Science The Sanctity of Life Religion and IVF Abortion Euthanasia Stem cell research Genetic Engineering Drugs and Ethics Religious objections to medical procedures | Religion and Human Rights Animal Rights Freedom of expression Gender roles Community Social Justice | Prejudice and Discrimination Stereotyping LGBTQAI Religious Prejudice Racism & Xenophobia Prejudice against youths Age discrimination Disability in the Media | Religion, Peace and Conflict Muslim beliefs Christian beliefs The Crusades Anti-Semitism Religious Leaders and Conflict |

| Year | Key Features | Autumn 1 | Autumn 2 | Spring 1 | Spring 2 | Summer 1 | Summer 2 |
|------------|--|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| 10 GCSE | Optional 3 periods per week: 1 x single 1 x double Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies B Christianity and Islam | Matters of Life and Death Origins of the universe Sanctity of life Death and afterlife Abortion Euthanasia The natural world | Christian Beliefs Trinity Creation Incarnation Last Days of Jesus Salvation Christian Eschatology Evil and Suffering | Marriage and the Family Marriage Sexual Relationships Families Support from local parish Family planning Divorce Gender roles | Living the Christian Life Worship Sacraments Prayer Pilgrimage Celebrations The future of the Church Local and worldwide Church | End of Unit 1 Christianity Revision End of year exam WEX | Muslim Beliefs Introduction 6 beliefs 5 roots Allah Prophets Holy Books Angels Life after death |
| 11 GCSE | Optional 3 periods per week: 1 x single 1 x double Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies B Christianity and Islam | Living the Muslim Life The Ten Obligatory Acts of Shi'a Islam The Shahadah Salah Sawm Zakah and Khums Hajj Jihad Celebrations and Commemorations | Crime and Punishment Justice Crime Good, evil and suffering Punishment Aim of punishment Forgiveness Treatment of criminals The death penalty | Peace and Conflict Peace Peace-making Conflict Pacifism The Just War Theory Holy War Weapons of Mass Destruction Issues surrounding conflict | Preparation for GCSE RS Exam Review of topics in Paper 1 and 2 Revision Techniques Consolidate exam techniques/Skills | | |

Religious Studies is also included in the Global Learning curriculum, to ensure that all students meet the requirements of the Dudley SACRE Agreed Syllabus, regardless of their option choices.