



## Religious Studies - Curriculum Intent Statement

### Vision

#### Faculty Introduction

***“You will shine among them like stars in the sky – Philippians 2:15-16”***

The RS faculty is built around the teaching of St Paul – we firmly believe in the value and importance of each pupil, recognising their gifts and talents and giving them the opportunity to grow and develop. Our aim is to provide our students with a balanced RE curriculum that supports the development of their own religious literacy.

The RS faculty will nurture and encourage ‘confident and reflective young people and give them a strong moral and spiritual foundation’, they will have grown because of the wealth of experiences and opportunities that we will provide for them.

#### **KS3**

In KS3 we plant the seed of interest and wonder as we take them through a liturgical, sacramental and Christ-centred journey to prepare them for KS4. All students will take a qualification in Religious Studies. Students are encouraged to develop skills such as ‘resilience’, ‘perseverance’, and ‘confidence’. These skills are not only beneficial in their school life but are also transferable for further education and their future careers. We enable students to make cross curricular links within our classroom and celebrate the diversity that our school brings which further enables them to grow in confidence as they prepare to be citizens of the world as they leave our community.

Classes are taught as form groups by all members of the faculty and have 2 hours of RE per week. Staff within the faculty have collaboratively written a Scheme of Work using ‘The Curriculum Directory’ and this is spread between 6 modules per year.

The Scheme enables our students to develop knowledge and understanding of the four areas set out by the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales – Revelation, The Church, Celebration and Life in Christ. Pupils will spend time considering:

- Christian Community
- Sources of wisdom and authority
- Forgiveness and healing
- Living as Easter People
- The Mass
- Catholic Social Teaching
- Big Questions
- Vocation
- People of God
- Prayer and Pilgrimage
- Sikhism and Islam

For more information please click on this link and scroll to the bottom of the page to download the directory.

<http://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/schools/religious-education>

#### **KS4**

Classes are taught in mixed-ability groups receiving two hours per week in Year 9 and 10 and three hours per week in Year 11. We follow the **EDUQAS specification in Religious Studies B** – Component 1: Fundamental Catholic Theology, Component 2: Applied Catholic Theology and Component 3: Judaism.

There will be many opportunities for ‘student-centred’ learning involving independent research and the opportunity to develop informed viewpoints.

\* You will learn about the teachings of the Catholic Church and be able to support this with biblical evidence

- \* You will develop the skill of evaluation through class discussion and focused written responses
- \* You will improve your analysis skills through learning to examine ethical issues in detail
- \* You will need to analyse and critique arguments studied in order to assess the validity of an argument

The course is externally assessed at the end of Year 11 with three written exams

- Component 1: 1 hour and 30 minutes
- Component 2: 1 hour and 30 minutes
- Component 3: 1 hour

During each of the modules pupils will complete mini-assessments to keep track of progress towards their GCSE as well as completing a mock exam in year academic year. The faculty have purposely set the grade boundaries on the higher side – this is a journey that pupils are taking and the standards of the required skills for each question are very high and as such it is important that pupils focus on the areas that their teachers are asking them to work at on in order to access the higher grades over their 3 year journey.

#### **GCSE One Note Link**

The following is a link to a resource of the work covered in Years 9, 10 and 11 in Religious Studies (please note the link is also found on the school website). It is sectioned into the 3 components and then sub-sectioned into the topics covered within the components – all are colour coded to accompany the colour coded source packs and assessments within pupils' books and the Eduqas Revision Guide. The OneNote is designed to be used by pupils to consolidate their learning and has used pupil feedback to improve it for revision purposes too. There are many links to videos covered in lessons, websites to further develop pupils' learning and consolidation sections that look at revision of topics, past examination questions and link to the examination board.

[https://stpaulsleicester-my.sharepoint.com/:o:/g/personal/joriley\\_st-pauls\\_leicester\\_sch\\_uk/Etn\\_Wc4NeG1GiuJ9aLouAdgBI5iKAICBRy\\_zjMi0ggGo9g?e=WYoub0](https://stpaulsleicester-my.sharepoint.com/:o:/g/personal/joriley_st-pauls_leicester_sch_uk/Etn_Wc4NeG1GiuJ9aLouAdgBI5iKAICBRy_zjMi0ggGo9g?e=WYoub0)

#### **KSS**

AS and A2 classes receive five hours of curriculum time per week with an additional one hour per week intended for independent study and research. We follow the OCR specification 'Religious Studies' and study the following modules:

#### **Modules:**

Philosophy and Religion

Religion and Ethics

Developments of Christian Thought

The course develops a students' interest and enthusiasm for religion and its relation to the wider world. It is an academic discipline developing knowledge, understanding and evaluation skills which enable the student to reflect on and develop their own values, opinions and attitudes. The areas of study include arguments about the existence of God, the problem of evil, ways of moral decision making, religious teaching on the nature and value of human life, abortion and euthanasia.

The course is assessed at the end of Year 13 with three written exams – each lasting 2 hours and in which students will complete 3 essays per examination.

#### **A Level Philosophy One Note Link**

The following is the One Note link for pupils in Years 12 and 13 who are studying Philosophy for A-Level. It is sectioned into the topics of the syllabus and then sub-sectioned. It contains links to other websites, videos and other tools to consolidate what is covered in lessons. It is still being developed and as such pupil voice is taken at various stages in the Year from students to improve this tool.

[https://stpaulsleicester-my.sharepoint.com/:o:/g/personal/joriley\\_st-pauls\\_leicester\\_sch\\_uk/EI\\_w0Ou6NvBKoGK82y8wHq0BPQIKAEkNkuSipiskmeix1Xw?e=x3llhL](https://stpaulsleicester-my.sharepoint.com/:o:/g/personal/joriley_st-pauls_leicester_sch_uk/EI_w0Ou6NvBKoGK82y8wHq0BPQIKAEkNkuSipiskmeix1Xw?e=x3llhL)

We are nothing without an 'inspiring, high-performing, and passionate staff team', to work with our community and to pass on our great love for the subject. Students respond best to people they have confidence in, something we are keen to show as experienced practitioners. If our students feel inspired and confident, we hope they will rise up to the challenge 'to be the best that they can be' – to achieve in every way they can. Faith is a gift - and we hope that

through their RS experiences our 'young people will grow to be witnesses to their faith in the wider community' – ready to take their places and answer their individual vocation.

The RS classrooms will be a sanctuary for our young people where they will be part of 'a fully inclusive and welcoming experience', one which ensures that all their needs are catered for; where each child is recognised as a child of God with equal value.

And finally, the business of all schools, 'exceptional teaching and learning' - both in and outside of the classroom, including a rigorous approach to assessment and meaningful dialogue with students, without which none of the above would happen.