

Curriculum Information for Parents

Key Stage 3 Religious Studies

Learning Leader Contact Information		Phone: 01604 862125 or 01908 563468	Email: Kieran.hart@ewsacademy.org.uk
Examination Board	N/A	Specification Code	N/A

Subject Content

Religious Studies at EWS focuses on critical engagement with religious or philosophical concepts. Students will encounter a wide range of perspectives and will be encouraged and taught to critically examine these views. Students will form their own opinions and learn to justify them in the wider debate around each issue studied, as well as explaining those held by others. Content will be explored thematically and students will be taught multiple religious and philosophical responses to the issues.

In Year 7 students will study the following themes and broad questions:

Autumn: What are we and why are we here?

- Do we have souls and is there an afterlife?
- What is religion and what do people believe God is like?
- How did the universe start and will it end?

Spring: How did the religions develop?

- How are symbols used and what do they stand for?
- Who started the main religions and how?
- How have leaders influenced religious believers?
- How can art be used to teach about meaning and stories?

Summer: Why are love and forgiveness important?

- What is morality and how are moral rules created?
- How do people make moral decisions?
- What are love and forgiveness?
- How can love and forgiveness affect both the victims of bad moral decisions?

In Year 8, the following themes are studied:

Autumn: How do religious beliefs affect our world?

- Are all people equal?
- How have beliefs affect racism, sexism, social justice, and the environment?
- How have religious believers and communities impacted the world around them?

Spring: How has religion influenced peace and conflict?

- Who do our lives belong to?
- Is it ever right to kill or die for beliefs?
- What causes wars and can they ever be justified?
- What are weapons of mass destruction and are they ethical?
- What is jihad and are wars ever holy?
- Can terrorism be religious?

Summer: How should we celebrate life?

- What are rites of passages and if/how should we celebrate them?
- What are festivals and are they always religious?
- How do people worship and how does this help them find meaning in their life?

Additional Equipment Required:

Curiosity and a drive to learn about the world we live in.

Assessment Details

Students will be assessed twice a term. At each half term, the class teacher will use their professional judgement to measure the progress each student has made in developing their RS skills. At the end of each term, students will take a written test to help them identify areas of strength and need more clearly.

What can I do to support my child at home?

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Encourage your child to give reasons for their views and debate issues with them. For extended reading, students should be reading the news and forming critical responses to events and ideas. If students are curious about particular themes or ideas studied in class then their class teacher will be happy to recommend website or texts to extend their learning.

Recommended resources for the course:

Teaching Staff Contact Details

Name	Role	Email	Tel
Mr Kieran Hart	Learning Lead for RS	Kieran.hart@ewsacademy.org.uk	N/A
Mrs Charlotte Gordon	Teacher of RS and Progress Lead for Key Stage 3 on North site.	Charlotte.Gordon@ewsacademy.org.uk	N/A
Mrs Pippa Smith	RS teacher for 7NFD SENCO for EWS.	Pippa.Smith@ewsacademy.org.uk	N/A
Mrs Elaine Hedges	RS teacher for 7SFA Learning Lead for Art.	Elaine.Hedges@ewsacademy.org.uk	N/A
Mrs Michelle Davies	RS Teacher for 7SFA	Michelle.Davies@ewsacademy.org.uk	N/A

Additional Information: