

KEY STAGE 3

CURRICULUM INFORMATION

KEY STAGE 3 RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Learning Leader Contact Information	South Campus: Mr Hart Kieran.hart@ewsacademy.org.uk 01908 563468 (South)	North Campus: Mrs Gordon Charlotte.gordon@ewsacademy.org.uk 01604 862125 (North)
--	---	--

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 world's largest 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 do religious 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?

KEY STAGE 3

CURRICULUM INFORMATION

Summer: How does religion impact the way people treat nature?

- What rights should animals have?
- Is it more ethical to be vegetarian?
- What are the environmental threats to our world?
- How can Buddhist teachings like Metta and the Eightfold Path impact our behaviours?

In Year 9, these two themes are studied in depth:

Autumn and Winter: What should our medical ethics be?

- What makes someone themselves rather than someone else?
- Should people donate their organs or limbs?
- Are cybernetics the future of humanity?
- Should we genetically modify plants, animals, and people?
- How much control should the state or our parents have over our medical decisions?

Spring and Summer: How does religious practice impact communities and our world today?

- What do festivals like Diwali and Christmas really mean, and how do they affect our world?
- Why do people complete pilgrimages, and are they still valuable in the modern world?
- How are religious contested locations impacted by tensions between religious beliefs and traditions?
- What is the influence of religious belief on culture in contemporary Britain?

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 unit of study, 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?

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 websites or texts to extend their learning.

TEACHING STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Role	Email	Tel
Mr Kieran Hart	Head of RS	Kieran.hart@ewsacademy.org.uk	01908 563468
Mrs Charlotte Gordon	Teacher of RS	Charlotte.Gordon@ewsacademy.org.uk	01604 862125