

Religious Education Department

The Religious Education department is central to all life at St Benet Biscop and aims to deliver a high standard of academia through supporting and empowering students to be the best that they can be. All students study RE while at the school. At Key Stages 3 and 4 students receive 10% of curriculum time and at Key Stage 5 students receive 5% of curriculum time studying General RE. As a department we have close links with diocesan secondary schools and the local community.

Our department aims to encourage each student to gain knowledge and understanding of what it means to be a Catholic Christian, and to understand and appreciate the views and beliefs of other Christian communities and world faiths. Through Religious Education, and with close liaison with the chaplaincy team, students are encouraged to embark on a journey that will lead them to a clear and reasoned awareness of their own beliefs, while helping them to understand that being a positive member of society means being able to respect and understand the beliefs and values of others.

Key Stage 3

Students follow a curriculum based on Catholic RE, which has been developed by the department in line with Diocesan guidelines and is underpinned by the Religious Education Curriculum Directory.

Students study the following topics:

Year 7

Who is Jesus?
Community
Forgiveness
The Bible
Stewardship
Islam

Year 8

Belief in God
Vocation
Peace and Conflict
Northern Saints
Confirmation
Hinduism

Year 9

21st Century Ethical Issue
Marriage and Family Life
Religion and Community Cohesion
Judaism

Key Stage 4

Currently, we offer Eduqas GCSE Route B Catholic Christianity and Judaism GCSE course. Component 1, Foundational Catholic Theology: Theme 1 Origins and Meanings and Theme 2 Good and Evil. Component 2, Applied Catholic Theology: Theme 1 Life and Death and Theme 2 Sin and Forgiveness. Component 3, Judaism: Theme 1 Beliefs and Theme 2 Practices

Key Stage 5

At A Level we currently offer OCR Religious Studies through the Philosophy, Ethics and Developments in Christian Thought.

All sixth form students follow a course in CORE RE in Years 12 and 13 alongside their other A-Level and BTEC courses. The course aims to enable students to explore their own beliefs and values, develop their moral reasoning skills and apply these to their own and others' religious traditions. Learners will develop their knowledge, understanding and skills to think spiritually, ethically and theologically. It is suitable for students from any faith tradition or none.

Through discussion and debate, students will be able to formulate and articulate their own views and opinions on a variety of subjects including matters of life and death, justice and inequality and the environment.

There are also opportunities to contribute to the wider life of the school and the community through the General RE programme. Many students participate in 'practical RE' through working with younger students and the Cafod Young Leaders, fundraising for charities and leading learning in KS3. These experiences help build confidence, communication and inter-personal skills, and are a fantastic addition to a curriculum vitae. Many of the skills developed in General RE lessons can be transferred to other subjects and help students develop into good citizens committed to the 'common good'. Students can choose to formalise this work by following the Pope John Paul II Award.

Extra-curricular

There is a rich and varied extra-curricular offer available through RE and the chaplaincy team, and we always aim to find students the opportunity to develop their appreciation for awe and wonder through a range of trips and visits.

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