



Religious Studies: Year 8 Overview

The curriculum in year 8 is driven by the learning and understanding of religious concepts.

Autumn 1: Stories of the Old Testament

Students learn are introduced to the concepts of free will, suffering, revenge, forgiveness, sacrifice and the nature of faith by analysing the stories of the temptation of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, the near sacrifice of Isaac and the story of Joseph and his many brothers.

Autumn 2: Jesus-incarnation and Resurrection

Students learn about the key events in the life of Jesus in order to consider the importance of the incarnation and the resurrection. This then allows them to explore the concepts of sacrifice, salvation, redemption and temptation. Students will understand Christian beliefs about the sacrifice of Christ and how this links to salvation and redemption. This unit builds upon the Christianity unit in year 7 when students learn about the concept of the Trinity and analyse Jesus as fully human and fully God.

Spring 1: Muhammad

Students learn about how the message of Muhammad impacted upon an irreligious Middle East. Students analyse why Muhammad was chosen to reveal God's final message and what this tells us about his leadership qualities. Building on from the introduction to the Five Pillars in the year 7 curriculum students learn about the links between Muhammad, prayer and Hajj leading to a more in-depth understanding of two of the Five Pillars.

Spring 2: Beliefs about Life after Death

In this unit students study religious and non-religious beliefs about life after death. They will analyse sources of wisdom and authority to understand why different religious people have different views about the afterlife. Students will consider how the beliefs can bring comfort and hope whether the believer is religious or not.

Summer 1: The Power of Numbers

In this unit students study a variety of religious concepts by analysing the importance of the numbers associated with study. For example students will study the importance of the five k's for Sikhs, the Four Noble Truths in Hinduism and the Eightfold Path. Students compare the importance of the numbers to the religions and will be able to explain why they are important to the religions studied.

Summer 2: Is Pilgrimage Important?

In this unit students will make cross curricular links with their studies in history, earlier in the year, about the Reformation. They will consider why pilgrimage, pre reformation was considered important, and where people used to go and why. They will then use a modern day case study to compare and analyse whether pilgrimage is still important. They will make links with the previous concepts studied this year; sacrifice, resilience, responsibility and leadership.