

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

The NYCC agreed syllabus for Religious Education (2024-2029) requires that all pupils learn from Christianity in each key stage. In addition, pupils will learn from the principal religions represented in the UK, in line with the law. These are Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism and Judaism. Furthermore, children from families where nonreligious worldviews are held are represented in almost all classrooms. These worldviews, including for example Humanism, will also be the focus for study.

Reception – Children will encounter Christianity and other faiths, as part of their growing sense of self, their own community and their place within it.

Key Stage 1 – Christians and Muslims or Jewish people.

Key Stage 2 – Christians, Muslims, Hindus and Jews. Key Stage 2 Curriculum includes

- What do different people believe about God?
- Why is the Bible so important for Christians today?
- Why is Jesus inspiring to some people?
- Why do people pray?
- Why are festivals important to religious communities?
- Why do some people think that life is a journey and what significant experiences mark this?
- What does it mean to be a Christian in Britain today?
- What does it mean to be a Hindu in Britain today?
- What can we learn from religions about deciding what is right and wrong?
- Why do some people believe God exists?
- What would Jesus do? (Can we live by the values of Jesus in the 21st Century?)
- What do religions say to us when life gets hard?
- If God is everywhere, why go to a place of worship?
- Is it better to express your beliefs in arts and architecture or in charity and generosity?
- What does it mean to be a Muslim in Britain today?
- What matters most to Christians and Humanists?
- What difference does it make to believe in ahimsa (harmlessness), grace, and/or Ummah (community)?

Year 7	Unit 1: Community & Belonging • World religions • Beliefs about God • Living a religious life • How do Christians show community? • Amrit and the 5 Ks (Sikhism) • Hinduism and community • Islam and community • Buddhist communities • Bar and Bat Mitzvahs (Judaism) • Assessment	Unit 2: Religious Stories • Rama and Sita (Hinduism) • Liberation of the Israelites (Judaism) • The story of the Buddha • The Good Samaritan (Christianity) • The story of the Sikh gurus • Night of Power (Islam) • Assessment	Unit 3: Jesus & Holy Week • Who was Jesus? • Disciples • Who was to blame for the death of Jesus? • Resurrection • Holy Communion • Holy Week • Easter • The importance of Jesus • Radical Jesus • Assessment	Unit 4: Where do we come from? • Creation stories • Cosmological argument • Scientific theories • Design argument • Religious experience argument • Miracles • Is theism reasonable?
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Year 8	Unit 1: What happens when we die? • What does it mean to be human? • What do Christians believe about the afterlife? • What do Muslims believe about the afterlife?	Unit 2: Crime and Punishment • Crime • Types of punishment • Aims of punishment • Capital punishment • Religious views on	Unit 3: Morality and Justice • Moral arguments for the existence of God • Absolute and relative ethics • Utilitarianism • Christian and Muslim moral	Unit 4: The Problem of Evil • Natural and moral evil • The problem of evil • Christian responses to evil • St. Augustine and Job
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	• Jewish views on the afterlife • Buddhist views on the afterlife • Hindu views on the afterlife • Sikh views on the afterlife • Non-religious views on the afterlife • The meaning of life • Assessment	- the death penalty • Christianity and forgiveness • Islam and forgiveness • Assessment	- principles • Human rights and justice • Moral actions: discrimination and prejudice • Freedom of religion • Responses to poverty / charity • Animal rights • Intentions and outcomes • Punishment and forgiveness • Assessment	
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Year 9 - Consolidation units	Unit 1: Introduction and Overview • Christianity • Islam • Judaism • Hinduism • Sikhism • Buddhism • Atheism • What is ethics? • Assessment	Unit 2: Afterlife • Christian views on the afterlife • Muslim views on the afterlife • Hindu views on the afterlife • Humanist views on the afterlife • Interpreting religious texts on the afterlife	Unit 3: Creation • Christian creation story • Muslim creation story • Hindu creation story • Non-religious views on creation • Interpreting texts on creation • Assessment	Unit 4: Evil • Christianity and evil • Islam and evil • Sikhism and evil • Non-religious views about evil • Analysing religious texts about evil	Unit 5: Who is God? • God and Christianity • Islam and God • Judaism and God • Non-religious beliefs about God • Assessment
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Year 9 - GCSE RE (AQA) content	Paper 1: Christian beliefs and teachings • Why is Christianity an important world faith? • The nature of God • The problem of evil and suffering • The Trinity • Creation • Interpretations of the creation story • Beliefs about the afterlife • Resurrection • Judgement • Heaven and hell • Incarnation • Crucifixion of Jesus • The role of Christ in salvation • Sin • Salvation • Exam skills and revision • Assessment	Paper 1: Christian practices • Forms of worship • Prayer • Sacraments • Baptism • Eucharist • Orthodox Divine Liturgy • Pilgrimage • Christmas • Holy Week • Assessment
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Year 10 - GCSE RE (AQA)	Paper 1: Christian practices • What role does the Church play in the local community? • Food banks • Street Pastors • Mission and evangelism in the UK and abroad • Responses to	Paper 1: Muslim beliefs and teachings • Sunni and Shi'a Islam • Six Articles of Faith • Five Roots of Usul ad-Din • Nature of Allah • Risalah • Prophet Adam • Prophet Ibrahim	Paper 1: Muslim practices • Five Pillars of Islam • Shahadah • Salah • Sawm • Zakah • Hajj • Mosques • Shi'a perspectives on the Five Pillars	Paper 2: Theme A - Relationships and Families • Sex and sexuality • Contraception and family planning • Marriage • Family • Christian marriage ceremonies • Muslim marriage ceremonies
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	- persecution - Open Doors - Reconciliation - Responses to poverty - Christian charities: CAFOD, Christian Aid and Tearfund - Assessment	- Prophet Muhammad - Qur'an and Shari'ah - Other holy books: Torah, Psalms and Gospels - Angels - Akhirah - Al-Qadr - Judgement, paradise, and hell - Assessment	- Ten Obligatory Acts - Jihad - Amr bil-Ma'roof, Nahi Anil Munkar, Tawalla, and Tabarra - Eid ul-Fitr - Eid ul-Adha - Ashura - Assessment	- Cohabitation - Same-sex marriage - Parenthood - Divorce - Remarriage - Gender equality and prejudice - Contrasting beliefs - Assessment
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Year 11 - GCSE RE (AQA)	Paper 2: Theme B - Religion and Life - Scientific vs. religious truth - Big Bang theory - Evolution - Genesis creation story - Religious attitudes to the environment - Value of the world - Animal rights and experimentation - Vegetarianism - Abortion - Euthanasia - Care for the dying and the hospice	Paper 2: Theme D - Religion, Peace & Conflict - Attitudes to justice - Forgiveness and reconciliation - Violence - Terrorism - Reasons for going to war - Religion as a cause of war - Christian and Muslim attitudes to war and peace - Holy and just war - Victims of war - Weapons of mass	Paper 2: Theme E - Religion, Crime & Punishment - Religion and rules - Different types of crime - Causes of crime - Good and evil - Aims of punishment - Suffering - Forgiveness - Treatment of criminals - Prisons - Community service - Corporal	Revision for GCSE examinations
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	movement • Christian and Muslim attitudes to life • Death and the afterlife • Assessment	destruction, including nuclear weapons and deterrence • Role of religion and beliefs in war and peacekeeping • Peace and pacifism • Assessment	punishment • Capital punishment and religious attitudes to it • Assessment	
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