



# Curriculum Newsletter

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education (RE) is an important subject which creates opportunities to deepen knowledge and understanding of the world around us and, ultimately, developing the key skill of empathy as well as creating opportunities for personal reflection, critical thinking, analysing, and evaluation.

RE contributes to students' education by provoking challenging questions about meaning and purpose in life, beliefs about God, ultimate reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human. In RE, we learn about religious and non-religious world views to discover, explore, and consider different answers to these questions.

## Curriculum intent

Our curriculum for Religious Education sets out the knowledge that students will gain in each year group and at each key stage.

The curriculum is planned to ensure students build upon their knowledge and skills by responding to enquiry-based questions through the principal religions (Christianity, Islam, and Sikhism). It becomes deeper and more comprehensive as they progress through the key stage.

## Key Stage 3 Curriculum

The RE curriculum at the Hermitage Academy is designed using an enquiry-based approach. This effectively introduces students to different approaches towards the study of religious and non-religious worldviews. Whilst the basis of each

enquiry is distinct, it may cross into other enquiry areas.

Some examples of these enquiries evident within the KS3 curriculum are:

<b>Theological Enquiry</b> (beliefs of religious and non-religious worldviews): <i>What do Sikhs believe about the nature of God?</i>	<b>Phenomenological Enquiry</b> (how beliefs are expressed in practice and ways in which the beliefs make a difference to the lives of individuals and communities): <i>What does it mean to live as a Muslim in Britain today?</i>	<b>Philosophical Enquiry</b> (enquiry into ultimate questions of humanity about meaning, purpose and truth): <i>Why do some people believe in God?</i>
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<b>Sociological Enquiry</b> (enquiry into the impact of religious and non-religious worldviews on society and their role in communities, both locally and globally): <i>What is Prejudice and Discrimination?</i>	<b>Ethical Enquiry</b> (people's values and actions and the way people may make moral decisions because of religious and non-religious beliefs): <i>Do religions bring conflict or harmony?</i>
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## Key Stage 4 Curriculum

[AOA GCSE Religious Studies A](#)

**Component 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings, and practices**

- Christianity
- Islam

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes (50% of GCSE)

**Component 2: Thematic studies**

- Theme A: Relationships and families.
- Theme B: Religion and life.

- Theme D: Religion, peace, and conflict.
- Theme E: Religion, crime, and punishment

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes (50% of GCSE)

## Key Stage 5 Curriculum

Year	Content
12	<p>Philosophy of religion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ancient philosophical influences</li> <li>• the nature of the soul, mind, and body</li> <li>• arguments about the existence or non-existence of God</li> <li>• the nature and impact of religious experience</li> <li>• the challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil</li> <li>• ideas about the nature of God</li> <li>• issues in religious language</li> </ul> <p>Religion and ethics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• normative ethical theories</li> <li>• the application of ethical theory to two contemporary issues of importance</li> <li>• ethical language and thought</li> <li>• debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience</li> <li>• sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs</li> </ul>
13	<p>Christianity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• religious beliefs, values and teachings, their interconnections and how they vary historically and in the contemporary world</li> <li>• sources of religious wisdom and authority</li> <li>• practices which shape and express religious identity, and how these vary within a tradition</li> <li>• significant social and historical developments in theology and religious thought</li> <li>• key themes related to the relationship between religion and society</li> </ul>

## Studying RE can open doors ...

Religious Education (RE) can give you many transferable skills which will be useful for future studies but also in everyday life, in how you approach the situations and problems you are faced. It allows you to become articulate in presenting your ideas, and persuading others to understand your perspectives. This boosts your confidence and builds your communication skills; two key skills needed in any field of work. They also help you to think more independently, promoting self-autonomy and individualisation.

Secondly, as these subjects delve into ideologies and theories relating to beliefs and existence, you will also develop the ability to think logically and critically analyse differing perspectives and viewpoints. You will develop these skills through debate and discussions with other individuals who not only hold their own point of view, but who may be completely opposed to your own.

Finally, as a highly inquisitive and academic subject you will acquire strong academic writing skills, which is useful for many junior and leadership positions when writing reports, delivering presentations, chairing meetings and more.

Students have gone onto study theology, religious studies, philosophy, education, law, politics, medicine and more. Studying Religious Education (RE) can open doors, here are the careers links to consider: law, education, social work, politics, the armed forces, police, public relations, aid workers, editors, civil servants, research, and healthcare.