

The Aims of Religious Education

Religious Education at Preston Manor is a lively and popular subject. We encourage the pupils to engage in continuous enquiry about religious beliefs, philosophical ideas, ethical issues, and other of life's ultimate questions.

Through this, the pupils develop many useful skills, including logical reasoning, arguing a case, using evidence, critical evaluation, empathy and communication skills.

We also aim to foster an attitude of respect for the beliefs of others, so that the pupils are able to understand alternative views, even though they may disagree with them. By taking the opportunity to explore and explain their own beliefs, the pupils can also gain increased confidence and self-awareness.

In a multi-cultural, multi-faith school such as ours, we believe it is particularly important to value all religions, and not to present any one of them as more, or less, valid than the others.

Programmes of Study

Key Stage 3

In Year 7-9, the pupils study separate units on each of these religions: Islam, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Sikhism, and Hinduism. In each unit, they learn the main beliefs and practices of the religion. They also study some of the themes that many religions have in common (eg pilgrimage), looking at similarities as well as differences between religions. Students also study an introduction to the philosophy of religion and religious ethics. Students receive two RE lessons a fortnight.

Key Stage 4

Religious Studies is a popular choice for GCSE. The course covers a study of religious teachings, beliefs and practices, and how religion influences people. Students also consider contemporary world issues eg medical ethics, relationships, the environment. They learn about the moral questions and dilemmas that these issues might raise, and understand different religious attitudes towards these issues.

Post-16

RS continues to be a popular choice at A/S and A Level. It includes study of philosophy of religion, religious ethics, and developments in religious thought. Our students are offered places at prestigious universities, to study a wide range of subjects.

Extra-curricular

Key Stage 3 RE trips include visits to place of worship. Last year, some students visited Neasden Temple; others visited a Jewish Museum in Camden.

The department runs additional sessions outside of lessons to help Key Stage 4 and 5 students prepare for exams.

We also use the school's VLE to provide support and resources that students can access independently to extend their learning.