



CURRICULUM PLAN

2019-20

SUBJECT **PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS**

OVERVIEW Philosophy and Ethics is a comprehensive subject which includes elements of Religious Studies, Citizenship, PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) and SRE (Sex and Relationships Education).

KEY STAGE 3 In KS3 we focus on the main elements of two world religions, namely Christianity and Islam. We build on our knowledge each year, which gives us the opportunity to revisit key ideas and concepts. We also examine issues such as local and national politics, human rights, charity, globalisation and the environment. We explore how religious ideas can sometimes conflict with scientific knowledge and how people can reconcile their differences. In Year 9 we start to focus on careers, options and how to plan for our futures by developing financial awareness and independence.

The Sex and Relationships element of the curriculum includes issues such as identifying unhealthy relationships, managing our emotions, how to keep healthy mentally and physically, informed consent, risk awareness and management.

The students are encouraged to develop their own opinions, basing them on evidence, and respectfully challenge ideas that they don't agree with.

KEY STAGE 4 At KS4 we follow the Eduqas Full Course Religious Studies (Route A) Specification. This includes a study of two world religions (50% of the final exam) and contemporary ethical issues (50% of the final exam).

The two world religions we focus on are Christianity and Islam. The beliefs and practises of both religions are examined, and students are encouraged to link these to religious sources and authority. The students are encouraged to develop their own ideas about the validity of religious teachings and respectfully challenge ideas that differ to their own.

The contemporary ethics module introduces subjects such as relationships, human rights, life and death, good and evil. These topics are important to students, not just because of the GCSE exam, but because as they become young adults, they may well be faced with some of these issues within their own lives or via social media. This curriculum enables them to have a better understanding of the topics so that they can make informed choices about their own behaviours and choices.

The students have the opportunity to engage in lively discussion and learn to develop their own opinions. They learn to express themselves in written form, having to present differing points of view and justify their own opinions with evidence.