

# Philosophy



## Course Overview

Studying philosophy of religion and ethics is to explore to **BIG** questions about life, the universe and morality but beware, the answers don't come easily. At A Level we will also cover how religion is influenced by, and has an influence on philosophy of religion in relation to the issues studied, and similarly how religion influences ethics.

During the philosophy section of the course we'll be exploring questions such as:

**'Is there a God?'**

**'Why would a good and powerful God allow evil and suffering in the world?'**

**'Do religious experiences really happen?'**

**'Does philosophy have an influence on religious belief and action?'**

The study of religion investigates key beliefs, practices and teachings of Christianity, and how these are expressed in the lives of individuals, communities and societies.

Ethics focuses on the decisions and dilemmas we are all faced with. Just look at the newspapers to see the challenges that we face in the 21st century! But how should we respond to them? What do the terms right and wrong really mean? Is what's right for me, right for you too? We try to answer these questions and study the attempts of other to do the same.

## What do I need to join?

You should enjoy lively debate and have a desire to embark into the unknown. It doesn't matter what your personal beliefs are but having an open mind is essential. As the majority of the assessment will be written you should enjoy essay writing. A minimum of a grade 4 in GCSE English would be accepted to start this course. A grade 5, however, is preferred.

An interest in current affairs and the media will also aid your development.

## Staff contact:

**Mrs Louise Tierney**

**Mrs Bridget Durrant**

AS		A Level	
Unit	Title	Unit	Title
A	Philosophy of Religion & Ethics	A	Philosophy of Religion and Ethics
B	Study of Religion	B	Study of Religion and Dialogues

## How will I be assessed?

### AS

Unit A - One 2 hour exam 120 marks

Unit B - One 1 hour exam 60 marks

### A Level

Unit A - One 3 hour exam 100 marks

Unit B - One 3 hour exam 100 marks

## Where could this A Level take me in the future?

Philosophy is a very popular degree component and complements any form of logical thinking or literature course. It is particularly useful for law!

Religion & Ethics will include a study of theoretical and applied ethics which looks at people and their behaviour, linking these ideas to religious beliefs and teachings; therefore it is a valuable tool for any career that deals with people such as the medical profession, social work or teaching.

Philosophy of Religion and Ethics is also useful because it develops skills including research, communication, logical thought, critical evaluation and the presentation of ideas. Such skills would be useful for those wishing to enter areas such as law, social work, politics, medicine, journalism, television production or social planning.