

## Religious Studies Department

### **Intent:**

In Religious Studies we explore a range of the major world religions and contemporary ethical themes ensuring that students have a range of intriguing subjects to explore.

Students are challenged with questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling them to develop their own attitudes towards religious issues. Students also gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture. They develop analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership and research skills. All these skills we hope will prepare them for further study.

It is our intention to ensure that the Religious Studies curriculum inspires students to be curious and have a fascination about the world and its people that will remain with them for the rest of their lives. Teaching equips students with knowledge about diverse beliefs, people, religious and cultural traditions, together with a deep understanding of the way ethical issues are determined in the world today.

As students progress, their growing knowledge about religion, philosophy and ethics helps them to deepen their understanding of the way people and societies live around the world, both historically and contemporarily. Connect beliefs, ideas and actions to times and places in the world enables to develop a growing tolerance of, and understanding for, the diverse choices individuals and groups make about their lives

Within Religious Studies we plan to challenge students' beliefs about the world we live in and encourage them to be inquisitive about the future of our people and planet. Our curriculum has been chosen to ensure students are equipped with knowledge about current issues facing the world around us, while also ensuring students are taught the philosophical and ethical skills they need for the future.

### **Implementation:**

In Religious Studies we use a range of different teaching and learning strategies to ensure all students are challenged, engaged and enjoy Religious Studies lessons. Within lessons we use a wide range of different media such as interactive ICT lessons, decision making activities to encourage resilience, as well as using videos and documentaries to teach students about the fascinating world we live in. We regularly use newspaper articles and clips from news broadcasts to ensure students have a current and engaging Religious Studies curriculum. We also engage in regular debating lessons to develop oral literacy as well as critical thinking and analytical skills.

### **Beyond the classroom:**

Students are encouraged to use the range of learning resources made available through our subscription to the Kerboodle online textbook. In addition, we encourage students to learn more about local activities involving faith communities. We have regular visitors from groups who work with students on an individual or small group basis. Regular BBC programming is encouraged such as the recent series on "Muslims Like Us".