

*Year 8 Religious Studies*

Curriculum



# *Year 8 Religious Studies Curriculum*

## **Introduction**

Our focus will be exploring the role of religion in shaping individuals and societies.

### *Aims:*

- To promote students' personal, social, and emotional development.
- To equip students with the knowledge, skills, and understanding to make informed decisions about their health and well-being.
- To help students develop positive relationships with others.
- To foster students' understanding of themselves and the world around them.

### *Key Topics:*

#### *1. What does justice mean to Christians?*

- Examine the concept of justice in Christian theology, including divine justice, social justice, and individual justice.
- Analyse biblical passages that address themes of justice, such as the Ten Commandments, the Sermon on the Mount, and the parable of the Good Samaritan.
- Discuss how Christian principles of justice are applied to contemporary social issues, such as poverty, inequality, and discrimination.

#### *2. Religious figure: Who was Jesus?*

- Explore the life, teachings, and significance of Jesus Christ as the central figure of Christianity.
- Analyse the historical context of Jesus' life and ministry, including the Roman Empire and Jewish society.
- Discuss the key events in Jesus' life, such as his birth, baptism, miracles, crucifixion, and resurrection.
- Examine the different interpretations of Jesus' role and nature, including his divinity, humanity, and Messiahship.



### *3. Beliefs and practices:*

- What does Jesus' incarnation mean for Christians today? Analyse the concept of the Incarnation, which affirms that God became human in the person of Jesus Christ. Discuss the significance of the Incarnation for understanding God's love, grace, and redemption.
- What does the resurrection of Jesus mean for Christians today? Explore the Christian belief in the resurrection of Jesus, which affirms his victory over death and the promise of eternal life. Discuss the significance of the resurrection for Christian hope, faith, and salvation.

### *4. Fundamental questions:*

- Why do we suffer? Examine Christian perspectives on suffering, including theodicy (the problem of evil), the concept of sin, and the redemptive purpose of suffering. Discuss how Christian beliefs offer hope and meaning in the face of suffering.

### *Learning Objectives:*

By the end of Year 8, students will be able to:

- Develop a comprehensive understanding of the concept of justice in Christian theology and its application to social issues.
- Explore the historical and theological significance of Jesus Christ as the central figure of Christianity.
- Analyze the meaning and implications of key Christian beliefs, such as the Incarnation and the Resurrection.
- Develop a deeper understanding of the role of religion in addressing human suffering and providing hope and meaning.

### *Activities and Assessments:*

- Analyse religious texts related to justice and compassion.
- Discuss the role of religion in promoting social justice.
- Create a presentation on the life and teachings of Jesus.
- Participate in debates on religious ethics and morality.
- Write reflective essays on personal experiences and observations related to religion.
- Develop research projects on specific Christian beliefs or practices.
- Collaborate on group projects to compare and contrast different religious perspectives on justice and suffering.



## *Resources*

- Books
- Online resources
- Videos and films
- Visits to places of worship

## *Evaluation and Review*

The curriculum will be reviewed annually to ensure its effectiveness. Feedback from students, teachers, and parents will be considered in the review process.

Updated August 2024

Next review: August 2025