

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES GCSE

## Who is it for?

The course is suitable for everyone, regardless of ability or belief. People of any faith or no faith will enjoy the subject.

## What is it all about?

This course will give you the opportunity to explore some of the big moral and philosophical questions that affect all our lives. You will be encouraged to understand and explain your own views on a range of issues such as abortion, euthanasia, sexuality, life after death, war, peace and justice. These issues will be explored through the study of world two religions: Judaism and Christianity.

If you enjoy discussion and debate and learning about faith groups and new ways of thinking, then GCSE Religious Studies is the subject for you!

## Why choose Religious Studies?

A GCSE in Religious Studies is a sign of a well-rounded student who can understand and relate to people. It is a great preparation for A Level subjects such as Philosophy, Psychology or Law. The subject would benefit anyone considering a career that involves working closely with people. You will develop skills of debate and understanding and gain a fascinating insight into viewpoints and cultures that differ from your own.

## What will I study?

The course is split into two parts: **the study of two different religions, and four moral themes.**

Two religions	
We will be looking at the central beliefs and practices of two contrasting religions: <b>Christianity</b> and <b>Judaism</b> . This will be an opportunity to stretch yourself, and gain an in-depth understanding of two of the world's most important faiths. Our study of Christianity will hopefully involve a residential trip to the place where Christianity began in Britain – the Scottish island of Iona.	
<b>Moral themes</b> – we shall be exploring some fascinating questions:	
<b>Relationships and families:</b> What are the moral issues surrounding marriage, divorce, contraception and sexuality?	<b>Peace and conflict:</b> Are there ever good reasons to use violence or go to war? Why does religious belief lead some people to engage in conflict and other people to work for peace and reconciliation?
<b>Religion &amp; life:</b> Where did the world come from? Is there life after death? Are abortion and euthanasia acceptable? How should we treat animals?	<b>Crime &amp; punishment:</b> Why do we punish criminals? Is the death penalty acceptable? Should we always forgive others?

## How is it assessed?

There will be two exams at the end of Year 11, each lasting one hour and forty-five minutes. Students need to give a mixture of shorter and longer answers.

