



Religious Education

The modern world needs young people who are sufficiently confident in their own beliefs and values that they can respect the religious and cultural differences of others, and contribute to a cohesive and compassionate society. RE plays an important part in students' moral and spiritual development and encourages tolerance and respect towards others. The subject is, therefore, part of the basic curriculum which all pupils follow.

RE at Newent Community School and Sixth Form Centre contributes dynamically to students' education by provoking challenging questions about meaning and purpose in life, beliefs about God, ultimate reality, issues of right and wrong and what it means to be human. In RE they learn about and from religions and worldviews in local, national and global contexts, to discover, explore and consider different answers to these questions. They learn to weigh up the value of wisdom from different sources, to develop and express their insights in response, and to agree or disagree respectfully. Students are equipped with systematic knowledge and understanding of a range of religions and worldviews, enabling them to develop their ideas, values and identities. It develops an aptitude for dialogue so that students can participate positively in our society with its diverse religions and worldviews. Students gain and deploy the skills needed to understand, interpret and evaluate texts, sources of wisdom and authority and other evidence. They learn to articulate clearly and coherently their personal beliefs, ideas, values and experiences while respecting the right of others to differ.

Key Stage 3

Year 7

Baseline Assessment

What do people believe about God?

How do we respond to suffering?

Wealth and Poverty

Life After Death

Year 8

How did the universe begin?

Whose world is it?

How did Christian beliefs motivate MLK?

What does it mean to be a Muslim in the UK?

Key Stage 4

All students follow a Core RE course considering elements of Philosophy, Ethics and Spirituality. Units of Study include: How do humans express their spirituality, Concepts of morality, Issues of life and death and what can we learn from the Holocaust?

Philosophy and Ethics is offered as an option at Key Stage 4 following the OCR syllabus of study. This is broken down into two elements: Study of Religions and Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the modern world.

Study of Religions

Beliefs and teachings of religion

Religious practices

Sources of wisdom and authority



Forms of expression and ways of life

Philosophical and Ethical Studies

Key religious figures

Religious texts and religious stories

Relationships and families

Religious views of the world

Religion, peace and conflict

Crime and Punishment

Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice

Dialogue within and between religions

Key Stage 5

The RE department also offers a course in Philosophy and Ethics at Key Stage 5. This has proved to be popular in the past, attracting students interested in the challenge to their analytical and thinking skills. The syllabus includes major influences on the study of philosophy and the various ways in which people can arrive at ethical decisions in both religious and non-religious contexts. This is an excellent option for those intending to go on to higher education as the skills developed can be applied to most other subjects. Universities find evidence of ability to think creatively is a useful way to distinguish applicants in specialist fields such as Science.

Parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE and arrange for alternative, supervised, instruction to support their own beliefs in agreement with the school. Parents wishing to exercise this right should in the first instance contact the Principal in writing.

Should you like to receive any additional information on this subject please contact Miss D Dufour, Head of Department via email admin@newent.gloucs.sch.uk.