Mulberry Academy Woodside
KS3 Religious studies - Curriculum Overview

INTENT: Our KS3 Religious Studies curriculum provides a challenging, knowledge-rich foundation that promotes academic excellence and empowers all students to achieve their full potential. Students explore a range of religious and non-religious worldviews, developing curiosity, respect, and critical thinking. Through inclusive and engaging lessons, students deepen their understanding of belief, ethics, and identity, enabling them to reflect thoughtfully on themselves, others, and the wider world.

DEPARTMENT: **Social studies**

	AUTUMN TERM	SPRING TERM	SUMMER TERM
YEAR 7	**Meaning & Purpose and Christianity Practices** **Meaning & Purpose:** Who am I? Principles of World Religions; prayer and different beliefs about God; where did the universe come from? How do these beliefs help individuals understand purpose and moral living? **Christianity Practices:** Christian beliefs and worship; Jesus and the Church; celebrations and commandments; what are miracles according to the Bible? How do these practices support personal and community life? Examining how religious beliefs and practices shape identity, values, and moral reasoning. Using sacred texts, artefacts, case studies, and	**Islam Practices and Peace & Conflict** **Islam Practices:** Prophet Muhammad and the Qur'an; Sunni and Shia Islam; the Five Pillars; refugees and Sufism; Islam and terrorism. How do Islamic beliefs guide daily life, moral choices, and responses to contemporary issues? **Peace & Conflict:** What is war good for and what causes it? Just war theory and pacifism; nuclear weapons; promoting peace at Christmas. How do religious and non-religious beliefs shape responses to conflict?	**Religion, Crime, and Punishment** **Crime & Punishment:** Why is justice important? Causes of crime; why do we need punishment? Forms of punishment in the UK and internationally. Attitudes towards punishment from Muslims, Christians, and Hindus. How is crime and punishment represented in the media, and how do these examples influence understanding of ethics and justice? Examining how religious and non-religious beliefs shape attitudes to justice, punishment, and ethical behaviour. Using sacred texts, case studies,

media examples to explore lived religion and belief in contemporary society. **Skills:** • Explaining and interpreting beliefs, practices, and key principles of religions • Analysing how beliefs influence moral behaviour, community, and decision-making • Comparing similarities and differences between religious and non-religious perspectives • Reflecting on personal and societal values, using media and real-world examples	Examining how Islamic beliefs and ethical frameworks influence moral reasoning and responses to war, peace, and reconciliation. Using sacred texts, case studies, and media examples to explore lived religion and belief in contemporary society. **Skills:** • Explaining and interpreting beliefs, practices, and teachings in Islam • Analysing how beliefs influence moral decision-making and responses to conflict • Comparing religious and non-religious perspectives on peace and war • Evaluating the impact of media representation on understanding of Islam and conflict	contemporary examples, and media sources to explore moral reasoning and lived religion. **Skills:** • Analysing and evaluating religious and non-religious responses to crime and punishment • Comparing attitudes across religions and with secular perspectives • Explaining the impact of beliefs on behaviour, community, and society • Interpreting sources, including media and case studies, to support ethical reasoning

YEAR 8	Sikhism and Buddhism	Hinduism and Judaism	Philosophy & Ethics and Humanism
	Sikhism: Core beliefs, teachings of the Gurus, the Guru Granth Sahib, prayer, worship, and key practices. How these beliefs shape identity, moral choices, and community life. How Sikh values are represented in contemporary media. **Buddhism:** Life of the Buddha, the Four Noble Truths, the Eightfold Path, meditation, and ethical teachings. How Buddhist beliefs and practices guide behaviour and support community cohesion. Media examples of Buddhism in contemporary society. Examining how Sikh and Buddhist beliefs and practices shape moral understanding, identity, and community. Using texts, artefacts, case studies, and media examples to explore lived religion.	**Hinduism:** Core beliefs (Brahman, Atman, dharma), gods and goddesses, rituals, festivals, and ethical teachings. How these influence identity, behaviour, and moral decision-making. Media examples of Hindu beliefs and practices. **Judaism:** Beliefs, Torah, mitzvot, festivals, and traditions. How Jewish teachings shape personal and community life, and moral reasoning. Contemporary media examples illustrating Jewish practice and values. Examining how Hindu and Jewish beliefs and practices shape identity, community, and moral understanding. Using texts, artefacts, case studies, and media examples to explore lived religion.	**Philosophy & Ethics:** Natural and Moral Evil; absolute and relative honesty; Deontology including Kant's ethical theory; how religious experiences (visions, mystical experiences, conversions) contribute to belief in God. How religion and ethical issues are represented in the media. **Humanism:** Humanism as a secular ethical worldview, including reason, compassion, responsibility, and moral decision-making without religion. Responses to contemporary ethical dilemmas as portrayed in the news. **Overall / Summary:** Examining how philosophical ideas, religious experiences, and secular ethical frameworks influence moral reasoning, beliefs, and behaviour. Using case studies, sacred texts, and media examples to explore ethical decision-making and lived beliefs.
	Skills: • Explaining and interpreting beliefs and practices in Sikhism and Buddhism • Analysing the influence of beliefs on behaviour and community • Comparing similarities and differences in ethical teachings and practice • Reflecting on how media representation shapes understanding of religion	**Skills:** • Comparing beliefs, practices, and ethical teachings across Hinduism and Judaism • Analysing the impact of faith on behaviour, community, and society • Evaluating moral and ethical teachings from different perspectives • Reflecting on the influence of media on perceptions of religion	**Skills:** • Analysing Natural and Moral Evil and ethical dilemmas in context • Comparing religious and humanist approaches to morality and ethics • Explaining the influence of beliefs and experiences on behaviour and society • Evaluating sources, including sacred texts and media examples, to support reasoning

YEAR 9	**Studying World Views**	**Religion and the Environment**	**Examining Religion and Belief**
	What is a worldview? What is your worldview? How do different people describe theirs? This unit explores worldviews through practical activities, metaphors, and case studies, integrating religious studies and sociology to investigate religion and belief in contemporary Britain. Students engage with data, interviews, and theoretical frameworks to understand how beliefs shape human experience and behaviour. Evaluating how worldviews influence thought, morality, and social attitudes. Expressing personal worldviews and engaging with differing perspectives. Using case studies, data, and interviews to develop GCSE-style analysis and reasoning. **Skills:** - Analysing and comparing different worldviews, including religious and non-religious perspectives - Explaining influences on human experience and behaviour - Interpreting case studies and sources to support academic understanding - Reflecting on personal beliefs and values in a structured, evaluative way .	How do theological and scientific perspectives differ and relate? Students explore faith-based and secular approaches to environmental issues, including creation stories from Christianity and Islam, and consider ethical responsibility through interactive activities and case studies. Environmental charities, media examples, and contemporary debates are used to enrich understanding. Examining how religious and non-religious beliefs influence moral reasoning and ecological responsibility. Using texts, interviews, case studies, and media to practise GCSE-style ethical analysis and evaluation. **Skills:** - Comparing religious and scientific perspectives on creation and environmental responsibility - Analysing ethical and ecological issues from multiple viewpoints - Explaining motivations for environmental action and evaluating their societal impact - Interpreting sources and case studies to develop reasoned GCSE-style conclusions	**Christianity:** Core beliefs, practices, worship, festivals, and sacred texts. How does a Christian worldview influence moral reasoning, identity, and community life? **Islam:** Beliefs, Qur'an, Five Pillars, and practices. How does Islam shape behaviour, moral reasoning, and community cohesion? How do media and contemporary examples reflect diversity within Muslim communities? Analysing unity and diversity within and between Christian and Muslim communities. Linking theology with lived experience, social context, and ethical reasoning. Using texts, artefacts, interviews, and media to practise GCSE-style analysis, evaluation, and interpretation of sources. **Skills:** - Analysing key beliefs, practices, and sacred texts in Christianity and Islam - Comparing similarities and differences within and between religious traditions - Explaining the influence of religion on behaviour, identity, and society - Evaluating contemporary issues and media representation using evidence - Practising GCSE-style reasoning and evaluative skills in preparation for assessment