

Teaching and Learning Content: Religious Education Year Group: 9

Autumn Term:

Believing in God

In year 9 the students begin GCSE Religious Education, they start with the issues listed below and it would be helpful if you begin to explore these questions with your child over the summer holiday period. In the unit we only study one religion - Christianity.

Key Questions:

- Why do some people believe in God and others do not?
- How significant is a religious upbringing on whether a person believes in God?
- How could a religious experience change a person belief in God?
- Did God design the World?
- Who caused the Universe?

- Does science causes people to be agnostic or atheist?
- How do Christians respond to scientific explanations?
- Why can unanswered prayers lead someone to become agnostic or atheist?
- How do Christians respond to unanswered prayers?
- Is God is all-loving (benevolent) why does he allow evil and suffering?
- How do Christians respond to the problem of evil and suffering?
- Could a religious programme about religion affect a person's belief in God?

Students will:

At the end of this topic students will be able to explain the reasons why some people believe in God and why some people do not. They will learn specialist vocabulary associated with belief in God and will also explore their own beliefs and opinions. They will be able to use their knowledge and understanding to answer GCSE questions on believing in God.

Summer Term:

Marriage and the Family

In this topic we will explore societies changing attitudes to marriage and the family. We will look at moral issues such as; sex outside marriage, divorce, family life, contraception and homosexuality. We will study the attitudes of non-religious and religious people in relation to these issues. In this unit we study two religions – Christianity and Hinduism.

Key Questions:

- How have attitudes to marriage and family life changed over the last 50 years?
- Do all Christians disagree with sex outside marriage?
- Do Hindus believe you have to be married before you have sex?
- Do Christians accept divorce?
- What do Hindus believe happens to the family if people divorce?
- Christians need the family to bring up their children as Christians?
- All Hindus respect the family unit?
- All Christians have the same attitude concerning homosexuality?
- What two attitudes do Hindus have concerning homosexuality?
- Does the Christian church condemn contraception?
- Contraception goes against Hindu beliefs concerning the householder stage of their life?

Students will:

At the end of this topic students will be able to explain how followers of Christianity and Hinduism have responded to the changing attitudes to marriage and family life. They will be able to give their own opinions on moral issues such as divorce and contraception. They will be able to use their knowledge and understanding to answer GCSE questions on marriage and the family.

Suggested resources to support your child's learning:

It is important to keep up-to-date with current affairs as there are nearly always news items on the topics we cover, the way to do this is to:

Watch the news – especially Channel 4 and BBC

Read newspapers – you can look at some online

Magazine articles are sometimes relevant to the topics we cover (cut them out and keep with permission!)

Read fiction – most stories have a moral choice in them and it is how the characters deal with the choices they make that makes the story interesting.

If you go to a place of worship ask your religious leader for advice or leaflets on the topics covered.

Come to the RE department and ask for any books that could help you prepare for the topics covered.