

Year 8 Philosophy & Religious Studies Curriculum

THEME	RELIGION & SOCIETY		
Frequency	1 x 45 minute lesson per week		
	TOPICS	KEY ASSESSMENTS	EXTENSION ACTIVITIES THAT PARENTS CAN UNDERTAKE TO SUPPORT LEARNING
Autumn Term	<p style="text-align: center;">Islam</p> <p>Investigating the development of Islam, key moral teachings and its impact on world civilization</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Example:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">‘Religious clothing does more to liberate women than it does to oppress them’ DISCUSS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Discussions:</u></p> <p>How are Islam, Judaism and Christianity connected? What makes a message a revelation? How political is prophecy? What changes the world the most: politics, war or prophecy? Can you commit to anything if you don’t believe in anything? What virtues are needed to live in a good society? What should the law say about religious clothing? How have other cultures influenced UK history and culture?</p> <p><u>Wider Reading:</u> ‘The Book of Rumi: 105 Stories and Fables That Illumine, Delight, and Inform’ by Rumi, translated by Maryam Mafi</p>
Spring Term	<p style="text-align: center;">Hinduism</p> <p>Investigating key ideas in Hinduism, including Hindu theism, reincarnation and karma, the caste system, and Gandhi’s role in India’s independence struggle</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Example:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“Non-violence is the best tool for liberating the oppressed” DISCUSS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Discussions:</u></p> <p>When is destruction a good thing? What kind of avatar would solve the problems of today’s world? Is it true that what goes around comes around? How might belief in reincarnation make you live differently? Is dividing society into classes a fact or life or an unfair system? What are the pros and cons of pacifist protest?</p> <p><u>Wider Reading:</u> ‘Life of Pi’ by Yann Martel</p>
Summer Term	<p style="text-align: center;">Sikhism</p> <p>Investigating the development of Sikhism and its contribution to debates about equality</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Example:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“The best way to share gold with the people is to build them a golden temple” DISCUSS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Discussions:</u></p> <p>What makes a good leader? What does our clothing say about our identity? How do ego and pride impede equality? What sort of soldier is a saint? What sort of discipline do you need to fight for the oppressed? Can a book be a better teacher than a human? Is a golden temple worth more if anyone can enter?</p> <p><u>Wider Reading:</u> ‘The Wheel of Surya’ by Jamila Gavin</p>