

**Why we teach Religious Studies at St. Paul's Academy School**

Religious Studies makes a valuable contribution to students' lifelong search for truth and meaning. It our aim to encourage young people to engage and reflect spiritually, ethically and theologically. In our current climate, providing pupils with a voice to critically analyse ethical issues in our world is integral to their future. Colleges, universities and employers value the opportunities that students have had in Religious Studies to develop skills and qualities such as debating ideas, evaluating views, demonstrating empathy and tolerance of others. We deliver our lessons with vibrancy and enthusiasm and through our dedication to the subject area we ensure high standards and outcomes. We aim to challenge students in their RS lessons so that they learn to challenge their own views and question the views of others. Religious Studies assists pupils to live out their faith and establish their own personal lens through which they see the world.



**Disciplinary Knowledge**

- Knowledge** - to engage in a systematic study of the mystery of God, of the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, the teachings of the Church, the central beliefs that Catholics hold, the basis for them and the relationship between faith and life
- Understanding** - to enable pupils continually to deepen their religious and theological understanding and be able to communicate this effectively
- Community** - to present an authentic vision of the Church's moral and social teaching to provide pupils with a sure guide for living and the tools to critically engage with contemporary culture and society
- Dialogue** - to give pupils an understanding of the religions and worldviews present in the world today and the skills to engage in respectful and fruitful dialogue with those whose worldviews differ from their own
- Enquiry** - to develop the critical faculties of pupils so to bring clarity to the relationship between faith and life, and between faith and culture
- Meaning** - to stimulate pupils' imagination and provoke a desire for personal meaning as revealed in the truth of the Catholic faith
- Application** - to enable pupils to relate the knowledge gained through religious education to their understanding of other subjects in the curriculum.

**Substantive Knowledge**

**Understand**

Show understanding of the literal sense of scripture passages.

Use a range of contextually accurate religious and philosophical vocabulary to show a coherent understanding of a range of religions, worldviews, beliefs, and actions.

Make relevant connections between different areas of study (doctrine, sources, structures, worship, and life), showing how one area influences others.

**Discern**

Play with possibilities, asking 'what if?' questions, testing ideas using thought experiments and counterfactual scenarios to deepen insight, critically engaging with different people's responses to these questions.

Offer an interpretation of the meaning of a variety of relevant creative and artistic expressions (for example, texts, stories, paintings, music, etc), with reference to the historical and cultural context of the maker.

Compare and contrast how effectively different relevant works of art reflect Catholic sources and beliefs.

Present an argument for a particular point of view, showing an awareness of different views.

Assessing the relative validity of different arguments.

Use relevant sources of wisdom and authority appropriately as justification for particular points of view, considering why different sources have weight for them.

Arrive at reasoned judgements, recognising the scope and limitations of different ways of reasoning.

Demonstrate an understanding of the significance and influence of common and divergent worldviews and practices within and between religions.

**Respond**

Reflect on the meaning of what they have learned for their own lives. Begin to explore the experiences and feelings of others, understanding what matters to them and the impact this has on their ways of life.

Consider how their own lives and the future of the communities to which they belong could be transformed by what they have learned.

Act to bring about transformation in their own lives and in the communities to which they belong, as a consequence of their learning.

Use relevant sources of wisdom and authority appropriately as justification for particular points of view, considering why different sources have weight for them

**Employability skills**

Literacy,  
Research,  
Analysis,  
Creativity,  
Leadership,  
Organisation,  
Resilience,  
Initiative,  
Communication,  
Empathy,  
Debating,  
Evaluation,  
Justifying.

**Careers Links**

Journalist  
Lawyer  
Teacher  
Charity  
Coordinator  
Police Officer  
Clergyperson.

**School values**

Catholic Ethos  
Three Be's  
Fundraising/  
Enterprise  
Stewardship  
Chaplaincy  
Human Rights  
Catholic Social  
Teaching

**St. Paul's Academy School**  
**Religious Studies Key Stage 3 Curriculum Map – Topics by Term**

UNDERSTAND	DISCERN	RESPOND				
Knowledge	Understanding	Community	Dialogue	Enquiry	Meaning	Application

KS3	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2	
Year 7	<p><i>Topic Title</i>  <b>Introduction to RS and Creation and Covenant</b>  <i>KQ:</i>                      How should we treat God's creation?  <i>Key Vocabulary</i>                      God                      Revelation                      literal sense                      literary form                      Creation                      Creationism                      scientism                      prayer                      stewardship</p>	<p><b>Prophecy and Promise</b>  <i>KQ:</i>                      Why is the Bible an important text for Christians?  <i>Key Vocabulary</i>                      Revelation                      Dei Verbum                      Scripture                      tradition                      magisterium                      inspired                      canon                      Old Testament                      New Testament                      Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek                      Tanakh                      Liturgy of the Word</p>	<p><b>From Galilee to Jerusalem</b>  <i>KQ:</i>                      How does the Bible and Church respond to the poor and marginalised in society?  <i>Key Vocabulary</i>                      incarnation                      trinity                      Son of Man                      Son of God                      Christ                      Lord                      heresy                      Arianism                      lex orandi, lex credendi                      service</p>	<p><b>From Desert to Garden</b>  <i>KQ:</i>                      What is the connection between the Church as Christ's body and the Sacramental life of the Church?  <i>Key Vocabulary</i>                      Paschal mystery                      sacrament                      Passover                      Eucharist                      Sacrifice of the Mass                      transubstantiation                      Holy Communion                      Lord's Supper                      Blessed Sacrament</p>	<p><b>To the Ends of the Earth</b>  <i>KQ:</i>                      How has God's revelation been completed through the giving of the Holy Spirit at Church?  <i>Key Vocabulary</i>                      Holy Spirit                      Pentecost                      ruah                      People of God                      Body of Christ                      Temple of the Holy Spirit                      Confirmation                      Fruits of the Spirit</p>	<p><b>Dialogue and Encounter</b>  <i>KQ:</i>                      What is the role and purpose of Church Councils and how have they come to decisions regarding the doctrines of the Church?  <i>Key Vocabulary</i>                      Ecumenical Council                      Schism                      dogma                      reform                      Christian                      unity                      ecumenism</p>	
	SK						
	DK						
Links to Catholic Social Teaching (CST)	<p>Pupils will have a particular focus on 'Care for our Common Home'.</p>	<p>Advent                      homelessness                      charity in support of                      'Preferential Option for the Poor' and 'Human Dignity'.</p>	<p>Understanding                      'Preferential Option for the Poor' through study of parables</p>	<p>Lent charity activities in support of CAFOD e.g. The Big Lent Walk                      'Preferential Option for the Poor' and 'Solidarity'.</p>	<p>Opportunities to explore how pupils can get involved in acts of social justice                      'Human Dignity' and 'Participation'.</p>	<p>'Subsidiarity' is considered as a result of exploration of how decisions are made in the Catholic Church and other denominations.</p>	
Year 8	<p><b>Creation and Covenant</b>  <i>KQ:</i>                      How should we use our conscience in the modern world?  <i>Key Vocabulary</i>                      the Fall                      original sin                      concupiscence                      Sinai                      covenant                      the Decalogue                      freedom                      responsibility                      conscience                      baptism</p>	<p><b>Prophecy and Promise</b>  <i>KQ:</i>                      What is the role of the prophets in Advent?  <i>Key Vocabulary</i>                      prophet                      priest                      King                      messianic                      Advent                      Amos                      Elijah                      John the Baptist</p>	<p><b>From Galilee to Jerusalem</b>  <i>KQ:</i>                      What does Jesus' ministry teach us about God's nature?  <i>Key Vocabulary</i>                      Kingdom                      moral                      sense of scripture                      miracles                      parables                      Anointing of the Sick</p>	<p><b>From Desert to Garden</b>  <i>KQ:</i>                      How does Christ's suffering relate to Christian's life and faith?  <i>Key Vocabulary</i>                      suffering                      servant                      Passion                      suffering                      Lent                      fasting, almsgiving, and prayer Triduum                      Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation)                      problem of evil</p>	<p><b>To the Ends of the Earth</b>  <i>KQ:</i>                      What is the Catholic belief of the afterlife and how is this reflected in the funeral rite?  <i>Key Vocabulary</i>                      Resurrection                      death                      judgement                      heaven                      hell                      purgatory                      funeral rite                      requiem</p>	<p><b>Dialogue and Encounter</b>  <i>KQ:</i>                      What were the effects of the Second Vatican Council? What does the Catholic Church look like around the world?  <i>Key Vocabulary</i>                      Ecclesiam Suam                      dialogue proclamation                      Second Vatican Council                      eastern Catholic churches                      patrimony                      liturgical traditions and rites</p>	
	SK						
	DK						



**St. Paul's Academy School**  
**Religious Studies Key Stage 4 Curriculum Map – Topics by Term**

<i>SK themes and colours</i>				
<i>DK Big Ideas and Colours</i>				

	Autumn 1					Autumn 2					Spring 1					Spring 2					Summer 1					Summer 2				
Year 10	Judaism Beliefs and Teachings AQA Spec A GCSE					Judaism Practices AQA Spec A GCSE					Revision for Academy Exams – Mock Exam Paper 1. Christianity and Judaism					Theme A – Relationships and Family AQA Spec A GCSE					Theme B – Religion and Life AQA Spec A GCSE					Mock Paper 2 Christianity, Judaism and Themes A and B				
	S																													
	K																													
Year 11	Theme D – Religion, Peace and Conflict AQA Spec A GCSE					PPE 1 Christianity Judaism Themes A, B and D					Theme F – Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice					PPE 2 Full Paper					Exams									
	S																													
	K																													

**St. Paul's Academy School**  
**Religious Studies Curriculum Map – KS3 Disciplinary Knowledge Progression**

	Knowledge	Understanding	Enquiry - and Meaning -	Application -	Dialogue -
<b>Year 7</b>	Students will learn the core beliefs of the Catholic faith, including the Trinity, the sacraments, and the role of Jesus. Ability to identify and describe key beliefs and practices of each religion	Students will explore key stories and teachings from the Bible, understanding their significance in Catholic tradition. Ability to compare and contrast rituals across religions	Students will engage in various forms of prayer and understand the importance of communal worship in the Church. Pupils are stimulated to gain personal meaning by enquiring about the big questions: the creation of the world, who is Jesus and what is our purpose.	Pupils can apply their knowledge to science and geography lessons through their look at the creation of the world. They also link their knowledge to history. Students will learn how to apply Catholic teachings to their daily lives, focusing on moral decision-making and service to others.	Students will recognize and respect the diversity of beliefs within the Catholic Church and among other religions.
<b>Year 8</b>	Students will explore the significance and meaning of the sacraments in Catholic life, particularly Confirmation and Eucharist.	Students will learn about the principles of Catholic social teaching and how they apply to issues of justice and peace in the world.	Students will study key events and figures in the history of the Catholic Church and their impact on faith and society. Ability to discuss how religious ethics apply to modern societal challenges	Students will examine contemporary moral issues through the lens of Catholic teaching, developing their ability to make informed decisions. Ability to articulate the impact of religion on culture and community	Students will reflect on their personal faith journey and how they can grow in their relationship with God and the Church community Ability to engage respectfully in discussions about different beliefs
<b>Year 9</b>	Students will explore the mission and structure of the Catholic Church, including its teachings and governance.	Students will study the life, teachings, and significance of Jesus Christ in the context of the Gospels.	Students will learn how to interpret and apply biblical texts to their lives, focusing on both the Old and New Testaments.	Students will analyse various moral and ethical issues in society, using Catholic teachings as a guide for discussion and decision-making	Students will reflect on their own beliefs and values, considering how they relate to their faith and the wider community.

**St. Paul's Academy School**  
**Religious Studies Curriculum Map – KS4 Disciplinary Knowledge Progression**

<b>Year 10</b>	Students will learn about key beliefs, teachings, and practices of major world religions, including Christianity, Judaism, and others, as well as ethical theories and philosophical concepts.	Students will develop an understanding of how religious beliefs influence individuals and communities, including the role of religion in moral decision-making and social issues.	Students will engage in critical thinking and analysis, exploring questions about faith, ethics, and the nature of God, and evaluating different perspectives on these issues.	Students will apply their knowledge and understanding to real-life situations, discussing how religious teachings can inform responses to contemporary moral dilemmas and social challenges.	Students will consider the impact of religion on global issues, such as human rights, environmental concerns, and interfaith dialogue, fostering a broader understanding of the role of religion in society.
<b>Year 11</b>	Students will demonstrate knowledge of the core beliefs, teachings, and practices of major world religions, including Christianity and Judaism	Students will understand key ethical theories and moral principles, including how they relate to religious teachings and contemporary issues.	Students will develop skills in critical thinking, enabling them to analyze and evaluate different religious and philosophical perspectives.	Students will apply their understanding of religious teachings to real-world situations, discussing how these teachings inform moral decision-making.	Students will recognize the role of religion in addressing global issues, such as social justice, human rights, and environmental concerns.

**Year 7**

Learning Outcome	Description
Understanding Catholic Beliefs	Students will learn the core beliefs of the Catholic faith, including the Trinity, the sacraments, and the role of Jesus.
Exploring Scripture	Students will explore key stories and teachings from the Bible, understanding their significance in Catholic tradition.
Practicing Prayer and Worship	Students will engage in various forms of prayer and understand the importance of communal worship in the Church.
Living the Faith	Students will learn how to apply Catholic teachings to their daily lives, focusing on moral decision-making and service to others.
Respecting Diversity	Students will recognize and respect the diversity of beliefs within the Catholic Church and among other religions.

**Year 8**

Learning Outcome	Description
Deepening Understanding of the Sacraments	Students will explore the significance and meaning of the sacraments in Catholic life, particularly Confirmation and Eucharist.
Exploring Catholic Social Teaching	Students will learn about the principles of Catholic social teaching and how they apply to issues of justice and peace in the world.
Understanding Church History	Students will study key events and figures in the history of the Catholic Church and their impact on faith and society.

Engaging with Moral Issues	Students will examine contemporary moral issues through the lens of Catholic teaching, developing their ability to make informed decisions.
Fostering a Personal Faith Journey	Students will reflect on their personal faith journey and how they can grow in their relationship with God and the Church community.

## Year 9

Learning Outcome	Description
Understanding the Role of the Church	Students will explore the mission and structure of the Catholic Church, including its teachings and governance.
Exploring the Life of Jesus	Students will study the life, teachings, and significance of Jesus Christ in the context of the Gospels.
Engaging with Scripture	Students will learn how to interpret and apply biblical texts to their lives, focusing on both the Old and New Testaments.
Examining Moral and Ethical Issues	Students will analyze various moral and ethical issues in society, using Catholic teachings as a guide for discussion and decision-making.
Developing a Personal Faith Identity	Students will reflect on their own beliefs and values, considering how they relate to their faith and the wider community.

## KS4

Category	Description
Knowledge	Students will learn about key beliefs, teachings, and practices of major world religions, including Christianity, Judaism, and others, as well as ethical theories and philosophical concepts.
Understanding	Students will develop an understanding of how religious beliefs influence individuals and communities, including the role of religion in moral decision-making and social issues.
Enquiry	Students will engage in critical thinking and analysis, exploring questions about faith, ethics, and the nature of God, and evaluating different perspectives on these issues.
Application	Students will apply their knowledge and understanding to real-life situations, discussing how religious teachings can inform responses to contemporary moral dilemmas and social challenges.
Wider World Perspective	Students will consider the impact of religion on global issues, such as human rights, environmental concerns, and interfaith dialogue, fostering a broader understanding of the role of religion in society.

Learning Outcome	Description
Knowledge of Religious Beliefs	Students will demonstrate knowledge of the core beliefs, teachings, and practices of major world religions, including Christianity and Judaism.
Understanding of Ethical Principles	Students will understand key ethical theories and moral principles, including how they relate to religious teachings and contemporary issues.
Critical Thinking and Analysis	Students will develop skills in critical thinking, enabling them to analyze and evaluate different religious and philosophical perspectives.
Application of Knowledge	Students will apply their understanding of religious teachings to real-world situations, discussing how these teachings inform moral decision-making.
Awareness of Global Issues	Students will recognize the role of religion in addressing global issues, such as social justice, human rights, and environmental concerns.