



# RELIGIOUS STUDIES GCSE

The GCSE Religious Studies GCSE will focus in depth on the Catholic faith and will also explore the views of other Christians. Students will broaden their understanding of religion by studying the beliefs and practices of another major world faith which is Judaism. They will also study contemporary ethical issues through Catholic and other religious and non-religious perspectives. As well as helping students to understand theological concepts and religious doctrines, this GCSE will also promote and equip students with valuable skills for their future development, such as analytical and critical thinking, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership and research skills.

Areas of study include:

Catholic Christianity, Judaism, and Philosophy and Ethics based on Catholic Christianity.

## **Paper 1: Catholic Christianity**

Topics include Trinity, Creation, the incarnation, nature of salvation and grace, and beliefs about life after death (eschatology). Catholic liturgical worship, Catholic funeral rite, prayer, Catholic social teaching, the Bible, the Second Vatican Council, Mary as model of the Church.



## **Paper 2: Study of Judaism**

Topics include the nature of the Almighty, the Covenant and Mitzvot, Jewish beliefs about life after death, the Tenakh and Talmud, Prayer, rituals and ceremonies, Shabbat and festivals, features of the synagogue.

## **Paper 3: Philosophy and ethics based on Catholic Christianity**

### Arguments for the existence of God

Revelation, religious experience (visions and miracles), the design argument, cosmological argument, problem of evil and suffering and solutions.

### Religious teachings on relationships and families in the twenty-first century:

Love and sexuality, marriage, cohabitation, divorce and separation responsibilities and roles of men, women and children within the family



## **Assessment Objectives & Assessment Methods:**

**Two year course assessed by three exams in the summer of Year 11.**

**Paper 1: Catholic Christianity – 1 hour 45 minutes – worth 50% of final grade.**

**Paper 2: Judaism – 50 minutes – worth 25% of final grade**

**Paper 3: Philosophy and ethics based on Catholic Christianity - 50 minutes – worth 25% of final grade.**

**There will be one four-part question per topic of 3, 4, 5, and 12 marks.**

**The 12 mark questions will require extended writing and test analysis and evaluation. A mark out of 3 will be awarded for spelling, punctuation and grammar on certain (d) questions, specified by the exam.**