

Philosophy and Religion Department

About Us

The department consists of three full time specialist teachers. There are three PR rooms.

Department Aims:

- *To make the study of PR enjoyable and engaging.
- *To enable all pupils to have equal access to all that the department offers, with opportunities for all to reach their full potential in PR.
- *To develop in pupils a sense of self-worth and respect for others in a multi-cultural, multi-faith world.
- * To create a stimulating and active learning environment.

The PR department is a dynamic department that has taken a fresh approach to the teaching of Religious Education, allowing pupils to think deeply about a range of philosophical, theological, ethical, and spiritual questions in a modern and exciting way.



We use innovative teaching techniques and lots of pupil-led activities to ensure every pupil has the opportunity to broaden their spiritual, moral and cultural knowledge and understanding of the diverse society in which they live.

Key Stage 3

In Year 7 pupils start by asking fundamental questions about life such as 'Why are we here?' and 'How did the universe begin?' before moving on to study Food laws. Rites of Passage are examined in various religions through the Theatre of Learning experience. In Year 8 pupils examine how people worship and different



places of worship. They then go on to consider whether there is life after death, and finish with the art-focussed topic 'Picturing Jesus'. The course is delivered through a range of activities including 'Philosophy 4 Children' style discussion lessons, practical activities and personal investigations. Pupils have frequent opportunities to use ICT and are set meaningful and stimulating homework tasks throughout the year. Pupils are



also encouraged to use a range of transferable key skills such as 'Working With Others' and 'Improving Own Learning' in every lesson, which transfer well into all elements of their school life. Pupils then begin the GCSE short course 'Religion and Life Issues' in Year 9, completing three of the four topics that make up the first half of the GCSE.

Key Stage 4

In Key Stage 4, pupils complete the remaining module of 'Religion and Life Issues' and begin working towards the second GCSE short course 'Religion and Human Experience'. Pupils will either be examined for both 'Religion and Life Issues' and 'Religion and Human Experience' to provide a full GCSE in Religious Studies, or they will sit the 'Religion and Human Experience' exam in Year 11, gaining them a short course GCSE in Religious Studies.

A qualification in Religious Education is now highly sought after in our ever-increasingly multicultural society. Professions such as the police, nursing, teaching, journalism, television, radio, social work, retail, the armed forces and the fire service all value Religious Education as a critical subject for providing a good understanding of other peoples' beliefs and cultures. It is a subject that has moved away from purely teaching about Christianity, and now involves the development of transferable critical thinking skills such as the ability to evaluate fact, opinion, evidence and experience. Pupils learn about a range of important, everyday topics such as poverty, abortion, testing on animals, human rights, relationships and war. There are few employers who do not recognise the benefit of a good qualification in GCSE Religious Education and this department prides itself on delivering a top-rate qualification.

Key Stage 5

In Key Stage 5, throughout the AS and A2 course pupils study Ethics, Philosophy and Human Experience. In Ethics, pupils look at different approaches to moral issues such as deciding what the 'right' thing to do is, sexual ethics, the ethics of war and medical ethics. In Philosophy, pupils learn how to use rational argument and philosophical reasoning to consider deep philosophical questions such as whether God exists. In Human Experience, pupils study a module on 'Life, Death and Life after Death', allowing them to draw together knowledge, understanding and skills learned throughout their Key Stage 5 studies.

Pupils also study statutory Philosophy & Religion via the Communication Skills strand of the Welsh Baccalaureate, which focuses on the four PSE Elements: 'Crime and Punishment', 'Health and Emotional Wellbeing', 'Active Citizenship' and 'Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship'. Units on 'Medical Ethics' and 'Wales, Europe and the World' are also covered.

Extra Curricular Activities

Trips



We organise an exciting range of trips that go ahead throughout the year. Exciting destinations include an overnight stay in London, St David's Cathedral followed by Oakwood Theme Park, the Lightship in Cardiff Bay followed by bowling, cinema trips and St Fagans.

PR Club

Year 7 and 8 are invited to come along to our PR club activities held on Thursday lunchtimes. This is a popular club with up to 45 pupils attending on a regular basis. There are lots of arts and craft activities, as well as interesting film and multimedia events. Year 9 and 10 are invited to a Religion and Film Club.



Revision Sessions

Our GCSE revision sessions are popular with high levels of attendance from Christmas onwards. Year 11 is held on Monday lunchtimes in L1 and Year 10 is on Tuesday lunchtimes in L3. Extra revision lessons are also offered to our AS and A Level students leading up to the examinations. The Easter revision sessions have also proved very popular.

PR Week



The department runs a PR Week once a year to celebrate the subject. Many activities take place during this week including quizzes, competitions, games, treasure hunt and food tasting.

