

## Mark Rutherford School

### Religious Studies Department Curriculum Year 7 – Year 11: 2025-26

	Autumn Term		Spring Term		Summer Term	
	Autumn 1 7 weeks	Autumn 2 7 weeks	Spring 1 5 weeks	Spring 2 7 weeks	Summer 1 5 weeks	Summer 2 7 weeks
Year 7	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>What do We value?</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This term in Year 7 Religious Studies, students will explore the question <b>“What Do We Value?”</b>. They’ll reflect on their own values, learn about <b>Humanism</b> and <b>Christian values</b> such as love, compassion, and forgiveness, and compare how different beliefs guide how we live and treat others.</li> </ul>		<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>The Sikhi Religion</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This term in Year 7 Religious Studies, students will learn about <b>Sikhism</b> – exploring who the Gurus were, what Sikhs believe, and how they live their faith today. They’ll look at Sikh symbols, worship, and traditions such as the <b>Five Ks</b>, <b>Sewa</b>, and the <b>Golden Temple</b>, gaining an understanding of how these beliefs shape Sikh identity and community.</li> </ul>		<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Jesus within Christianity</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This term in Year 7 Religious Studies, students will learn about <b>Jesus’ life, teachings, and importance to Christians</b>. They’ll explore stories, parables, and Christian celebrations such as <b>Christmas and Easter</b>, thinking about themes like forgiveness and guidance. Students will also reflect on <b>role models</b> in their own lives and how Christians see <b>Jesus as the ultimate example</b> to follow.</li> </ul>	
Year 8	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>What guides our lives</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This term in Year 8 Religious Studies, students will explore <b>“What Guides Our Lives”</b>, thinking about the values and beliefs that shape their choices. They’ll learn how <b>Jesus’ teachings, love, and forgiveness</b> guide Christians, study <b>Martin Luther King Jr.</b> as a faith-inspired leader, and reflect on how to challenge prejudice. To finish, students will create a <b>protest song</b> on an issue they care about, inspired by the work of <b>Amnesty International</b>.</li> </ul>		<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Buddhist Dharma</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This term in Year 8 Religious Studies, students will explore <b>Buddhism</b> and the key teachings of <b>Dharma</b>. They’ll learn about the <b>life of the Buddha</b>, the <b>Four Noble Truths</b>, and how Buddhists aim to overcome suffering and live peacefully. Students will also reflect on how <b>faith and meditation</b> guide people’s choices and shape the way they live.</li> </ul>		<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>What happens when we die?</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This term in Year 8 Religious Studies, students will explore <b>“What Happens When We Die?”</b>, thinking about life, death, and what makes us who we are. They’ll learn how Humanist and different religions – including <b>Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, and Buddhism</b> understand of death and what happens next. Students will also be reflecting on their own beliefs and the importance of memory and identity.</li> </ul>	

<p>Year 9</p>	<p><b>Component 1: Religious, philosophical and ethical studies in the modern world</b></p> <p><b>Theme 1: Issues of Relationships</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This term and a half (Autumn and half of Spring term) in Year 9 Religious Studies, students will begin the GCSE course by exploring “<b>Issues of Relationships</b>”. They will examine religious and ethical views on <b>family, marriage, gender equality, and commitment</b>, reflecting on how beliefs and values shape relationships in today’s society.</li> </ul>		<p><b>Component 1: Religious, philosophical and ethical studies in the modern world</b></p> <p><b>Theme 2: Issues of Life &amp; Death</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This term and a half in Year 9 Religious Studies, students will explore “<b>Issues of Life and Death</b>”, examining topics such as the <b>sanctity of life, abortion, euthanasia, and life after death</b>. They’ll consider both <b>religious and non-religious views</b>, reflecting on how beliefs, ethics, and science influence our understanding of life’s most important questions.</li> </ul>	
<p>Year 10 – GCSE Religious Studies Eduqas</p>	<p><b>Component 1: Religious, philosophical and ethical studies in the modern world</b></p> <p><b>Theme 3: Issues of Good &amp; Evil</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This term in Year 10 GCSE Religious Studies, students will explore “<b>Issues of Good and Evil</b>”, looking at why evil exists, the nature of suffering, and how Christians and non-religious people make moral decisions. They’ll reflect on <b>crime, punishment, forgiveness, and free will</b>, developing their own understanding of ethical choices in the modern world.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Component 1: Religious, philosophical and ethical studies in the modern world</b></p> <p><b>Theme 4: Issues of Human rights</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This term in Year 10 GCSE Religious Studies, students will explore “<b>Issues of Human Rights</b>”, looking at freedom, equality, and justice. They’ll examine how <b>religious and non-religious views</b> respond to issues like <b>discrimination, racism, and refugees</b>, and reflect on how beliefs guide ethical actions in society.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Component 2: The study of Christianity</b></p> <p><i>Christian beliefs, teachings and practices</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This term in Year 10 GCSE Religious Studies, students will study <b>Christianity</b>, exploring the Christian beliefs &amp; teachings on the nature of God, Trinity, incarnation, atonement, salvation, afterlife and creation. They will also look at the Christian Practices: worship, sacraments, pilgrimage, festivals, the Church’s role in community and evangelism</li> </ul>	
<p>Year 11 GCSE Religious Studies Eduqas</p>	<p><b>Component 2: Continuation of the study of Christianity &amp; RECAP</b></p> <p><i>Christian beliefs, teachings and practices</i></p> <p>This half term in Year</p>	<p><b>Component 3: The study of Islam</b></p> <p><i>Muslim beliefs, teachings and practices</i></p> <p>This half term in Year 11 GCSE Religious Studies,</p>	<p><b>Component 3: The study of Islam Continuation of the study of Islam &amp; RECAP</b></p> <p><i>Muslim beliefs, teachings and practices</i></p> <p>This half term in Year 11, students will finish of the course content focused on Islam, as well as <b>recap</b> and revisit key beliefs, teachings, and</p>	<p><b>Recap, Revision, Exam Technique &amp; Final Examinations</b></p>

	<p>11, students will <b>recap Christianity</b> as part of their GCSE studies, revisiting key beliefs, teachings, and practices they'll focus on applying Christian ideas.</p>	<p>students will start the study <b>Islam</b>, exploring the Muslim beliefs and teachings of Allah, Tawhid, Prophethood, Akhirah (afterlife), Holy Books, Angels and Predestination. They will also look at the Muslim Practices: Five Pillars, Shahadah, Salah, Sawm, Zakah, Hajj, Festivals and Jihad.</p>	<p>practices they'll focus on applying Muslim ideas.</p> <p><b>Recap &amp; Revision</b></p>	
<p><b>Year 10 Core Philosophy &amp; Ethics</b></p>	<p><b>Introduction to Philosophy &amp; Exploration of Philosophy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ What is Philosophy?</li> <li>❖ Benefits of Studying Philosophy</li> <li>❖ Listening &amp; speaking skills</li> <li>❖ Exploring Philosophy</li> <li>❖ Key thinkers Philosophers</li> </ul>	<p><b>Introduction to Ethics &amp; Exploration of Ethics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ What is Ethics?</li> <li>❖ Utilitarianism Pt1</li> <li>❖ How free are we?</li> <li>❖ How do we know what is real?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Exploration of Philosophy &amp; Ethics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Can Philosophy Help us live a happy life?</li> <li>❖ Free will Vs Determinism</li> <li>❖ Do we need God to show us right from wrong?</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Year 11 Core Philosophy &amp; Ethics</b></p>	<p><b>Exploration of Philosophy &amp; Ethics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Are we really free?</li> <li>❖ Was religion invented to make us behave well?</li> <li>❖ How are free will and the problem of evil connected?</li> <li>❖ If there was no belief in God, would it change the way we live?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Exploration of Philosophy &amp; Ethics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ How does empathy help us understand others?</li> <li>❖ Identity Theory</li> <li>❖ Utilitarianism Pt2</li> <li>❖ Ancient Greek influences (three-part series)</li> <li>❖ Business Ethics</li> </ul>	<p><b>Students Will Be Preparing for Final Summer Examinations</b></p>	

<b>Component 1</b>	Religious, philosophical and ethical studies in the modern world
<b>Component 2</b>	The study of Christianity
<b>Component 3</b>	The study of Islam
<b>Both Components 2 &amp; 3</b>	The study of Christianity & The study of Islam