

Curriculum Purpose Statement – Religion and World Views

The central objective of the Humanities faculty is to educate students for membership in a political, social and economic global community by providing historical, geographical, cultural and religious and cultural education, whereby the student is fully equipped to step outside the gates of Hanley Castle and embrace the modern world. The Humanities subjects are a central role in this big step and Religion and World Views provides the knowledge and understanding that will form the basis of how students relate to the wider world.

The lessons in Years 7 - 9 have been created to build upon the knowledge students will have learnt at primary school, after consulting the MAT feeder schools. We want our students to learn about different beliefs, values and cultures and to develop a respect and empathy for those outside our comfort zone. We also teach lessons where Humanism and philosophy is a basis for the learning; for example, students in year 7 study 'An introduction to Religion and World Views'.

Teaching of World Views aims to develop the students' knowledge, skills and understanding by exploring the impact of religious beliefs and teachings; to express their personal responses and informed insights on fundamental questions about identity, belonging, meaning, purpose, truth, values and commitments. To reflect upon and to be able to communicate their own beliefs, opinion and values have cross-curricular links to other subjects and are skills they will be able to develop.

Religion and World Views plays a central role in providing a broad and balanced school curriculum which promotes students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. It is based on the Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus 2020-2025 and it is inclusive and broad minded. Religion is rarely out of the media and Religion and World Views aims to provide the understanding of beliefs, values and motivations behind the stories and to develop students' knowledge and cognition, enabling them to learn about different beliefs and to help shape the ways in which they view the wider world.

In more recent times, a key part of the journey of Religion and World Views has been its role in de-colonising the curriculum. New terms and a clearer focus are a part of the KS 3 and 4 curriculum and although it may take time to get used to new terminology, especially when texts and some materials are lagging behind, it is important to continue to reflect this new focus in lesson plans and in day-to-day teaching. Examples of this new focus is included in Year 9 Term 1, where Sikhi (as opposed to Sikhism) beliefs are studied and explanations for such changes are included at the beginning of the unit of work. Year 8, Unit 1 begins by looking at the Hindu Dharma (as opposed to using the term 'Hinduism') and the history of the term 'Hindusim' is explained to students as part of the first lesson.

Year 9 Unit 2 uses the term 'Anti-Racism' as an active commitment to changing language and actions as well as to promote racial equality not only in school but in the wider society.

The study of Religion and World Views provides a good background for any career where understanding people is an asset, and employers value applicants who have developed respect from an understanding and education of different religions and cultures. Whatever career path is chosen, Religion and World Views will help to form a solid foundation from which to relate to people and places whether closer to home or in the wider world. At Hanley Castle, this is at the very core of the subject.

