

Holy Trinity Catholic School



Faculty of Religious Education **Curriculum Rationale and Intent**

Curriculum Content

Year 7

YEAR	AUTUMN 1	AUTUMN 2	SPRING 1	SPRING 2	SUMMER 1	SUMMER 2
YEAR 7	THE CHURCH	ADVENT CHRISTMAS	SACRAMENTS	THE PASCHAL MYSTERY	THE GOD WHO SPEAKS: THE BIBLE	CHURCH HISTORY

In year 7 pupils follow a programme of study that looks at the basic instructions and history of the Roman Catholic Church and the liturgical calendar of the Church. This means pupils gain an understanding of what the Church is, its main festivals, the Sacraments that instruct its followers, how Catholics worship and the key events of the Church's history.

We choose to do this in year 7 because a lot of our pupils who join us in year 7 do not have an understanding of the Christian faith and especially of the Catholic Church. This means that pupils not only may not understand key concepts in RE lessons but they may also fail to understand the ethos of the school and other things that happen during our school year as a result of the Catholic nature of the school.

These key concepts are also the basic foundation of the GCSE course that pupils will take which is increasingly content and knowledge heavy; it is therefore crucial that we inform pupils quickly of these key concepts so that gaps in knowledge are addressed and foundations laid for later learning and instruction.

The intent is to give pupils an introduction to the Catholic Church and touch on key important concepts linked to GCSE study that will be studied again in KS4. As well as provide pupils with a holistic understanding of the Catholic Faith; its history and core beliefs.

Year 8

YEAR 8	CREATION With Judaism	EVIL & SUFFERING	THE GOD WHO SPEAKS: SCRIPTURE, PRAYER & DISCERNMENT	RELIGIONS OF THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT	ISLAM	WHO AM I?
--------	--------------------------	---------------------	---	--	-------	-----------

In Year 8 pupils follow a programme of study that is designed to build upon basic Catholic theology and give a more philosophical insight into religious concepts. Pupils are also given the opportunity to look at other faiths so that they can learn about them and also explore their own faith as for many in our school are not of the Catholic faith.

Pupils explore ideas of creation and man's place in the world, how evil enters the world, religious and secular ideas about life after death. The religions of the Indian subcontinent (Sikhism, Buddhism, Hinduism) Islam and then finally the 'Who am I' topic which focus on personal identity and respect of one's self.

We choose to teach these topics in Year 8 to allow pupils to build upon the concepts looked at in year 7 and prepare them for the topics they will look at in year 9 and in GCSE study. At this age pupils are more vulnerable to social media and the pressures of peers and teenage life and so we wanted to look at what the Church can teach them about themselves and about self-respect before delving into what would be direct SRE related content which we do in Year 9 and they will also do in PSD lessons outside of RE.

The intent is to prepare pupils for greater in depth theological study in year 9 and to prepare them for an outside world, its diverse nature especially in our location. To ensure pupils have an understanding that God loves them as an individual, that He has created this world for them and that they have been set aside for a purpose.

Year 9

9	MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE	JUDAISM (Beliefs and teachings)	JUDAISM (Practices)	THE GOD WHO SPEAKS: REVELATION THROUGH TIME
---	------------------------	------------------------------------	------------------------	--

In year 9 pupils follow a programme of study that brings together important real world content with in depth theological study. The year is split into three areas; the study of religious teachings on the family and relationships looking at various SRE content, the study of the Jewish faith in depth and the final module which conclude the God Who Speaks element of the KS3 curriculum which is a three-year study of scripture and how the living God speaks to us through the Bible. The final Part is particularly useful at the end of year 9 to provide better background and understanding of the Jewish historical narrative and the beliefs linked to it that they will have studied beforehand.

We have chosen to teach pupils this content in year 9 as they are of an age and academic maturity that they can grasp the concepts, the detail and depth into the Judaism study is more than previously experienced and a preparation for GCSE study. Also because some of these topics are ultimately important at this time in a young person's development. The module 'The God who speaks' is in response to the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales who have announced that the year 2020 will be dedicated to a focus on the Bible and 'The God Who Speaks'. This is to coincide with the 10th anniversary of Verbum Domini – Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation on 'The Word of the Lord' and the 1,600 anniversary of St Jerome's death. As a department we felt it was true that pupils needed to better understand who the living God can speak to us through the living word of God that is the scripture. We also believe that looking at certain scripture we can better prepare our student for GCSE study so that they understand the Bible more as a resource, the history of the Bible and the societies recorded within it as well as how this still relates to us today.

The intent is to inspire and promote philosophical enquiry as well support practical applications of the messages of God and the Church on human life and the purpose of the individual. As well as ensure pupils have a greater in-depth understanding of Judaism and the Bible.

Key Stage 4

In Key stage 4 our curriculum is of course in line with the exam board and GCSE specification. We have chosen to teach the EDUQAS RE GCSE ROUTE B. This is after consultation and guidance from the Archdiocese of Birmingham and the Bishops of England and Wales. This is also the reason we choose our second religion to be Judaism; this brings us in line with most Catholic schools across the country.

We choose to start in year 10 with the two topics from the Applied Catholic Theology Paper; Sin & Forgiveness and Life After Death. This is because they require an in-depth study and more time than perhaps other areas of Catholic study. The ideas explored are of a uniquely Christian Theological nature and often require much dissection and exploration before they are fully understood.

In year 11 pupils tend to move on to study the topics from paper one; Origins & meanings and Good & Evil. (If not done so already) We find that these more philosophical and familiar topics (as seen in KS3) are more engaging and at a time when pupils are gearing up for examinations and have many demands on them this works better for us as a school. Year 11 tend to finish the GCSE content before Easter we then use this time to go through Judaism in more detail and make content GCSE relevant as well as prepare generally for the GCSE exams in May.