

RELIGIOUS STUDIES & PHILOSOPHY: INTENT

Here at ECSfG we believe that the study of Religious Studies and Philosophy is vital to appreciating the diversity of religion and culture in the world around us.

The essence of Religious Studies throughout the Key Stages is to provide a safe environment in which pupils can explore their own as well as other people's beliefs. This fosters discussion between different religious and philosophical points of view, enhancing greater understanding of the wide variety of belief systems.

At Key Stage 3 the pupils develop an understanding of the importance of the major world religions in a believer's life. As a multi-cultural school the contributions of the pupils and the sharing of their own experiences enhances their learning.

The course also examines ultimate questions such as "Does God exist?" and "why is there suffering in the world?" This develops higher thinking skills and enables pupils to think philosophically about life's wider questions. They develop their use of philosophical technical language in their discussions and wider writing.

Through the exploration of prejudice and discrimination and religious responses to these issues we nurture the qualities of respect and equality which are a vital part of the ethos of ECSfG.

The work at Key Stage 3 prepares the pupils for the Religious Studies, Philosophy and Ethics GCSE at Key Stage 4. The assessments at Key Stage 3 reflect those at GCSE ensuring pupils have the discipline and mind set to achieve.

This leads to many pupils opting to continue with their studies developing their higher thinking skills further with Philosophy A level at Key stage 5 Here we explore moral ethics, epistemology, philosophy of the mind and philosophy of religion.

The aim of RS and philosophy is not only to gain academic knowledge but to encourage the development of the pupils' minds by providing the opportunity for them think deeply for themselves. They develop their own beliefs through exploration of religious, ethical and philosophical concepts. Through discussion this then fosters respect for others and their beliefs.