

# Religious Education

Religious Education holds a significant place in the curriculum at Thames Valley School, as it plays a crucial role in ensuring young pupils gain further knowledge and understanding of the wider world. Through the study of RE, students acquire knowledge about different religions, cultures, and beliefs, fostering their understanding and appreciation of diversity.

At Thames Valley School, RE is taught across all year groups to ensure a comprehensive understanding of different beliefs and practices. Our curriculum is designed to cover key world religions, including Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism and Judaism.

Students are encouraged to ask questions, engage in dialogue, and undertake their own research to expand their knowledge and understanding.

We organise six dedicated RE days throughout the year. These days provide students with the opportunity to immerse themselves in a particular religion and religious tradition. They are timetabled to coincide with key festivals linked to the religion being studied with cultural cooking also explored.

RE provides students with the opportunity to explore and understand diverse religious beliefs, values and practices. This helps them to develop empathy, respect and tolerance towards different faiths and cultures (British Values). Students are provided with opportunities to reflect upon existential questions and explore matters of morality, ethics, and meaning. They are supported to develop critical thinking skills and gain a deeper understanding of their own beliefs and values, helping students to develop their own personal philosophy and aiding their personal and moral development.

RE also provides students with historical and cultural insights, as religion has played a significant role in shaping societies throughout history. By studying RE, students gain insights into the beliefs and practices that have influenced art, literature, architecture, and social structures.

Year groups 9 and 10 have the opportunity to engage with and complete the AQA GCSE short course.