

# GCSE EPR

All students will take GCSE Religious Studies as part of the core curriculum.

## **Why Study GCSE EPR?**

“Employers like to know that applicants have thought a bit about themselves and their place in the world. They expect them to be able to work with a wide range of people– from all sorts of cultures – and to treat them all with courtesy and respect. They are looking for people who understand about beliefs and values, and have thought out their own attitudes with some care.” (Careers Information–Leaflet FAM2)

## **Exam Board**

The examination board is AQA. More details, including the specification (Religious Studies A), available at:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse>

## **What Will I Study? / What Skills Will I Develop?**

In paper 1 students will explore the Christian and Buddhist religions in depth, looking at the key beliefs, teachings and practices in each faith. In paper 2 students will look at a range of contemporary social, moral and ethical issues. They will examine the teachings of different religions and worldviews, but will also be encouraged to express their own ideas and opinions. Issues discussed are very much up-to-date and in the news. For example, euthanasia - should we be allowed to die with dignity and respect? We discuss the right to die as well as the right to life.

In Year 9 students will look at the key beliefs, teachings and practices from Christianity and Buddhism.

In Years 10 and 11 students will study 4 religious, philosophical and ethical themes. These are ‘Religion and life’, ‘Religion, peace and conflict’, ‘Religion, crime and punishment’ and ‘Religion, human rights and social justice’.

The course will give students relevant skills for life and their future by equipping them with the ability to make moral and ethical decisions. It will help them to understand and appreciate different views and lifestyles to their own. Students also develop their critical thinking skills and their ability to structure and develop arguments with clear reasoning and supportive evidence.

## **How Will I Be Assessed?**

Assessment comprises 100% written examination. Both papers are assessed at the end of Year 11 with a 1 hour 45 minute exam paper for each. Each unit accounts for 50% of the Full Course marks.

## **What Might GCSE EPR Lead To?**

EPR has never been more relevant, engaging and challenging. The subject will equip students with useful skills for the workplace, for example, an awareness of human rights and issues of discrimination. It links strongly into many areas of study – music, art, history, politics, social and cultural issues and global economics. The skills it develops make this a subject of academic standing and it is accepted by universities and colleges in its own right.