



Lister Community School
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Our Vision for RS at Lister

Religious Studies at Lister provides our students with the opportunity to develop into understanding, considerate and knowledgeable young adults. Through Religious Studies our students will learn different views and opinions about a range of topics including faith, culture and society. It develops critical thinking and rigour in the search for truths across a range of areas. It aids in the development of philosophical thought, decision making skills, working collaboratively and independently and helps to create young adults that can identify and understand compromise and conflict resolution successfully. Furthermore, Religious Studies gives our students the opportunity to discover awe and fascination through learning about religion and society, beliefs and practices.

What do we teach in KS3 RE?

We start with an introduction to world religions and a range of religious beliefs such as monotheism, polytheism, atheism, theism and postmodernism. Students develop their knowledge and understanding of why some people believe and why others do not believe in the existence of God. This helps to develop their ability to 'write to argue', which is a key skill required later at GCSE. We investigate world religions beyond the six largest faiths including Rastafarianism, Jainism and Taoism. Students also investigate a range of religious concepts to a number of social issues for example, Animal rights in Hinduism, peace and conflict in Buddhism and equality in Sikhism to name a few.

What do we teach in KS4 RE?

The religions we focus on at GCSE are Christianity and Islam. Students study the key beliefs and practices of each religion and then apply this knowledge to a wide range of social issues when we move on to our thematic studies: Family and relationships, Crime and punishment, Life issues and Peace and conflict. Each topic provides students with the opportunity to investigate a wide range of views and opinions across a number of current and topical issues including marriage and divorce, the death penalty and reasons for punishment, euthanasia, abortion and IVF and weapons of mass destruction, terrorism and pacifism, again, just naming a few.

By the time our students have completed Religious Studies at Lister, they will be able to evaluate, judge, justify an opinion, rationalise alternate/contradictory opinions, recognise weak/strong arguments, recognise similarity/difference and explain influence.

PSHE, SMSC and British Values

PSHE, SMSC and British Values run through the Religious Studies curriculum. It makes a major contribution to our students' understanding of values and plurality. Our students are provided with the opportunity to examine a wide range of contemporary issues, including some contentious issues, developing cultural, social, philosophical, historical and political awareness. Religious Studies at Lister enables our students to learn self-respect and an understanding of their own identity. Furthermore, students learn the importance of respecting others and gain valuable insight into their own and others' rights and responsibilities. Lister is at the heart of an amazing diverse community so there is a need for our students to be understanding and tolerant of difference, in both Religion and culture. Religious Studies has the ability to play a key role when it comes to creating social cohesion, generating improved understanding between communities with a view to reducing friction, social unrest and intolerance.