



Religious Studies Department Overview 2020

Overall intent: Valuing individuals, celebrating differences.

The department is currently made up of four experienced specialist teachers and currently two non-specialists, who work collaboratively to provide an excellent learning environment for our students. The Head of RS is Mr R Garner; working alongside Mrs L Cooper (Second in Department), Mrs A Giles, Mrs H Weaver, Miss D Service and Mr A Bowman.

The RS department at King Edwards aims to provide a fully inclusive learning environment where all students feel happy and safe in expressing their own individuality. We aim to provide students with opportunities to engage with a wide variety of social and cultural issues that are at the centre of the world today. Provisions are made for students to interact and learn from various religious traditions whilst recognising the importance of developing their own spirituality and morality.

All colleagues teach across the key stages, including A-level, and outstanding subject knowledge is a key feature of the department. Our Key Stage 3 curriculum reflects the national changes to GCSE that have taken place over recent years. In Year 7 they begin the course by delving into our now infamous Island story, where in which students begin to understand what makes society and religious belief. Parents with older students in school will fondly remember creating gifts for Baby Alex. In Year 8, Students are allocated three hours per fortnight of religious studies. Creativity is at the heart of our curriculum with students in this year being given opportunities to design contemplation rooms, model Gurdwaras and a wide range of presentation tasks. We currently teach mixed ability in Year 7 and 8 and subsequently in sets through to Year 11.

Recognising the growing maturity of our students being able to tackle more complex moral dilemmas, Year 9 students start the OCR J265 specification Full course, which is taught over three years. Students are allocated three hours per fortnight of religious studies in Year 9. The department teaches Christianity and Hinduism and explores the Themes paper through Christianity. Therefore a specialism in Hinduism would be desirable but not essential. We currently offer an A-Level in Philosophy, Ethics and Developments in Christian Thinking (OCR Religious Studies). In 2019, 53% of students achieved grades A*-B.

All full-time staff currently have a permanent teaching base and there is access to an interactive whiteboard in every classroom.

The Religious Studies department has a strong team ethos, we enjoy a culture where staff readily share resources and we are willing to learn from each other. We are keen to see the department develop a high profile within the school and the local area, sharing and developing good practice. Applications are welcome from both experienced colleagues and newly qualified teachers.