

What will I study?

You will study two world religions in detail, Christianity and Buddhism, and consider and evaluate their responses and your own to philosophical and ethical issues in the modern world. This will include studying:

- The nature of God: Does God exist? Do miracles happen?
- Religion and Science: Does science disprove religion? How did life begin? Why are we here?
- Death and Afterlife: Do people have souls? What happens when we die?
- Good and Evil: Why is there suffering? Should people lead their lives just as they want?
- Religion and Human Relationships: Why do people marry? Are men and women the same?
- Religion and Medical Ethics: Should we allow the suffering to die? Genetic engineering: OK?
- Religion, Poverty and Wealth: Should rich countries help poor countries? Why poverty?
- Religion, Peace and Justice: Can we have a just society? Can war be right?

How will I be assessed?

You will sit three exams in Year 11; one for Christianity and one for Buddhism - each exam will last one hour and count for 25% of your overall marks. There is also one 2 hour paper examining philosophical and ethical issues in the modern world- this paper will count for 50% of your overall marks. There is no coursework or controlled assessment in this GCSE. This course is worth 1 GCSE.

How will the subject help me in the future?

The skills that you will develop in this course are considered 'higher thinking skills' (debating, critical thinking and analysis to name a few) and they will equip you with the confidence and ability to be successful in A level / University and the work place. Occupations that GCSE Philosophy and Ethics students have gone onto include: management and leadership, therapy, business, journalism, police force, stock broking, retailing, social work, librarian, nursing, radio and TV, acting... to name a few, and don't forget teaching and religious leadership.

Is this a suitable course for me?

Do you enjoy finding out what others believe? Do you want to discuss different moral issues? Do you have the ability to 'stand in someone else's shoes'? Are you willing to listen to other people's points of view? Are you prepared to express your own ideas? Yes? Then GCSE Religious Studies / Philosophy and Ethics is for you!

Who can I talk to if I want to know more?

Mr McCanny or Mrs McCanny.