

# Religious Education

**The RE Curriculum at Soar Valley aims to allow all students access to a range of experiences that will:**

- enable students to consider the impact of religious beliefs on the world, on communities and on individuals.
- inspire curiosity, empathy, respect and debate around a range of religious and non-religious worldviews.
- build understanding of religious beliefs and practices, to help students both now and in the future.

All students at Soar Valley College study RE from Year 7 to Year 11.

## Year 7 topics

|   | <b>Topic Title:</b>  | <b>We will learn about...</b>   |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | <b><i>Why do we learn RE?</i></b>                                | ...reasons why people do and don't believe in God, what beliefs and practices are, why it's important to accept other ways of thinking. |
| 2 | <b><i>How do Hindu practices reflect beliefs?</i></b>            | ...what the Hindu faith teaches about gods and goddesses, how to live a good Hindu life, how Hindus worship and why.                    |
| 3 | <b><i>How do Jewish practices reflect beliefs?</i></b>           | ...what Jews believe about their origins as a faith and how that impacts of life for modern Jews, in their festivals and worship.       |
| 4 | <b><i>How should different humans treat animals?</i></b>         | ...how different religious and non-religious people think about animals and whether it's right to use them to make our lives better.    |
| 5 | <b><i>How do Buddhist practices reflect beliefs?</i></b>         | ...how the Buddha reached enlightenment and what that means for Buddhists today in their meditation and other practices.                |
| 6 | <b><i>How do different humans make good ethical choices?</i></b> | ...what ethics means and how we can apply ethical thinking to different areas of life, in the home and in public.                       |

## What parents can do to help:

- Encourage wider reading and understanding around a topic using library books from the college or a local library.
- Look out for evidence of religion in the local community including buildings, festivals being celebrated, charitable activities etc.
- Talk and discuss with your son or daughter events in the media with religious and ethical angles to them.
- Encourage the following learnings habits in your child:
  - coming to lessons fully equipped and ready to take part and completing all homework.
  - being interested in what other people think and believe, and curious about why. You do not have to be from a religious background yourself to do this!
  - expressing your views and opinions as clearly as you can.
  - having an open mind when you come across ideas that you don't agree with, and listening well to different opinions.
  - thinking about how religion makes a difference to people's lives.

## Useful Websites:

BBC Religion and Ethics website has a wide range of information and useful articles

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/>

BBC Bitesize: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/rs/>

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|   | <u>Topic Title:</u>  | <u>In more detail:</u>   |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | <b>Ethics</b> – what’s right and what’s wrong?                             | Exploring and applying different ethical approaches to moral dilemmas.                         |
| 2 | <b>Sikhi</b> – what’s important to Sikhs?                                  | A detailed study of key beliefs and practices within Sikhi.                                    |
| 3 | <b>Big Questions</b> – what should we ask to help us understand the world? | Exploring big philosophical questions like the nature of reality and whether free will exists. |
| 4 | <b>Islam</b> – what do Muslims believe and do?                             | A detailed study of key beliefs and practices within Islam.                                    |
| 5 | <b>Suffering</b> – If God exists, why do people suffer?                    | A study of the different arguments put forward to answer the problem of suffering.             |
| 6 | <b>Christianity</b> – How do Christians live and worship today?            | We will study a range of current Christian practices and where they originate.                 |

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**Useful websites:**

- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/0/>
- BBC Bitesize <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/rs/>
- <http://www.request.org.uk/main/main.htm> a website useful for topics in Christianity
- <http://www.hindukids.org/> one of the many Hindu websites
- <http://www.sikhnet.com/> a Sikh site
- <http://islaminschools.com/> a Muslim site

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Students are starting their GCSE RE course in Year 9. This means they need to take their work seriously and do their best at all times. The GCSE course involves TWO exam papers and EIGHT units of work. Those units have been split up into TOPICS and will be studied over the course of Years 9, 10 and 11.

|                    | PAPER 1 – RELIGIONS |                     |                |                  | PAPER 2 – THEMES                  |                          |                           |  |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| <b>FULL UNITS:</b> | Christian Beliefs   | Christian Practices | Muslim Beliefs | Muslim Practices | Theme A: Relationships & Families | Theme B: Religion & Life | Theme D: Peace & Conflict | Theme F: Human Rights & Social Justice |

**Year 9 topics:**

|   | <u>Topic Title:</u>              | <u>Related Unit</u>   |
|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Violence, Terrorism & War        | Paper 2, Theme D      |
| 2 | Why & How do Christians worship? | Paper 1, Christianity |
| 3 | Life on Earth                    | Paper 2, Theme B      |
| 4 | How do Muslims relate to Allah?  | Paper 1, Islam        |
| 5 | Religions & Peace                | Paper 2, Theme D      |
| 6 | Who is Jesus and what did he do? | Paper 1, Christianity |

**What parents can do to help:**

- Discuss events in the media that have religious / ethical angles with your child.
- Encourage the following learnings habits in your child:
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  - being interested in what other people think and believe, and curious about why. You do not have to be from a religious background yourself to do this!
  - expressing your views and opinions as clearly as you can.
  - having an open mind when you come across ideas that you don't agree with, and listening well to different opinions.
  - thinking about how religion makes a difference to people's lives.

**Useful websites:**

- BBC Religion and Ethics website: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/0/>
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- Christianity: <http://www.request.org.uk/main/main.htm>
- Islam: <https://www.islaminschools.com/>
- AQA GCSE exam board: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-a-8062>