

Policy and Rationale for KS3/KS4 P&R Core Curriculum

Statutory guidance from the SACRE requires the Buckingham Agreed Syllabus is followed by all schools within Buckinghamshire. RE/P&R is statutory, but it is also incredibly important that children learn about different faiths and beliefs as they grow up in modern Britain. It contributes significantly to SMSC and British values, but knowing and understanding what people believe and how they live is interesting and important in their own right. This syllabus provides for this, and also gives an excellent model for encouraging and enabling them to reflect on their own beliefs and experience.

The most significant point is that there is a clear rationale for the subject and four aims which are threaded throughout the learning. Questions, conceptual creativity, critical and creative thinking and experiential reflection are all important and these are built upon secure knowledge from KS3 of the six world religions.

P&R is an essential part of a school curriculum because it helps young people make sense of life and the world they live in and prepares them for life in modern Britain. As it states in the syllabus, 'RE is both academically rigorous and deeply personal.' The course at RLS reflects and meets all these targets.

Key Stage 3 units of study

	Year 7	Year 8
Autumn 1	Intro - Religion - Philosophy 7 criteria of religion Faith Belief Truth Intro to 6 World Religions (6WR) (6WR)	Buddhism - depth study Key beliefs Practices Customs History
Autumn 2	Intro to Philosophy Ontology, Epistemology, Ethics Plato and Aristotle Rationalism and Empiricism Teleological and Deontological Ethics	Rites of Passage (6WR)
Spring 1	Ethical Leaders - Jesus Teachings, example and key beliefs of Christianity and Christian Ethics (XTY)	Ethical Leaders - Sikhism Teachings, ethics and key beliefs of Sikhism Practices, customs, history
Spring 2	Creation - Myths, Theories Certainty and belief Creation myths across cultures Religion and Science (6WR)	Rights and Responsibilities Human Rights - history Key beliefs - infringements
Summer 1	Hinduism - depth study Key beliefs Practices Customs History	Community Cohesion (6WR) Teachings and beliefs about prejudice and discrimination - racism etc
Summer 2	Sacred books (6WR)	Environmental Ethics (6WR) Teachings and beliefs about the environment and care for the ecology.

Key Stage 4 Units of Study

	Year 9		Year 10		Year 11	
	Topic	Key Themes	Topic	Key Themes	Topic	Key Themes
Autumn Term	Animal Rights and Food MV I LI W R GI	GM food Ethical Farming Animal testing Speciesism Utilitarianism	Crime and Punishment MV I LI W R GI	Capital Punishment Justice Utilitarianism Deontology Kant	Matters of Life and Death MV I LI W R GI	Euthanasia Right to life Abortion
Spring Term	War and Peace MV I LI W R GI	Just war WMD Religious and Secular belief UN	Racism Prejudice Discrimination MV I LI W R GI	Racism/Sexism Homophobia Holocaust Character study	Philosophy - Intro to Philosophical Thinking MV I LI	Paradoxes Epistemology Ontology
Summer Term	Inequality and Money MV I LI W R GI	Inequality of wealth Utilitarianism 'What Money Can't Buy'	Life after Death MV I LI W R	Religious & Secular beliefs Paranormal NDEs/OOBes Reincarnation	Puzzles Paradoxes 'The pig that wants to be eaten' MV I LI	Critical and Philosophical Thinking - Puzzles and PForC

The nine key areas covered in P&R as prescribed by the Agreed Syllabus

- Religion and Moral Values (**MV**) (KS3 & KS4 & Full Course Option)
- Religion and Identity (**I**) (KS3 & KS4 & Full Course Option)
- Religion and the World (**W**) (KS3 & KS4 & Full Course Option)
- Religion and Life Issues (**LI**) (KS3 & KS4 & Full Course Option)
- Religion and Relationships (**R**) (KS3 & KS4 & Full Course Option)
- Religion and Global Issues (**GI**) (KS3 & KS4 & Full Course Option)

- Religion and Family (KS3 & Full Course Option))
- Religion and Community (KS3 & Full Course Option)
- Religion and the Individual (KS3 & KS4 & Full Course Option)

The Two Key Purposes of P&R at RLS

1. So pupils can learn **about** religions and beliefs which have influenced the lives of millions of people and heavily influenced the development of different human cultures. This is developing their religious literacy, which is essential to understand the modern world;
2. So that pupils can reflect more deeply on their own and others' sense of identity, meaning and purpose in life **from** their study of religion and belief. This develops their understanding of human values and mutual understanding.

P&R at RLS

- Reaches pupils of any religious faith or none and of all academic abilities and social backgrounds;
- Challenges pupils to question and explore their own and others' understanding of the world;
- Does not seek to urge beliefs upon pupils, nor compromise their own beliefs but rather to deepen their self-understanding and understanding of others;
- Raises questions of identity, meaning, purpose and value and encourages people to reflect on experience, life-styles and opinions;
- Contributes positively and powerfully to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils;
- Provides opportunities for pupils to develop communication skills and thinking skills;
- Teaches pupils about Christianity and other religions and world-views so that they can understand the world better and develop their own sense of place within it.

P&R and the wider Curriculum

P&R provides many opportunities to develop and explore language, the expressive arts, thinking and discourse and contributes significantly to a range of learning contexts in school and beyond.

- SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development of pupils [including British values])
- Thinking skills and philosophical enquiry
- Social/community cohesion
- Citizenship
- Global issues
- Creativity
- Communication and language
- PSHE and well-being

Whilst all areas of the curriculum and whole-school provision contribute to SMSC, P&R has a critical role to play by its very nature in these aspects of a pupil's school experience.