



Subject Religious Education

Curriculum vision

The RE Curriculum at Avonbourne Academies allows students to develop powerful knowledge and critically engage with a diverse range of ethical, philosophical, religious, and non-religious worldviews. Every student will be able to see themselves within our curriculum as it covers a great variety of traditions and perspectives. Students will gain an appreciation for how these worldviews have impacted the world they live in at a local, national, and global level, giving them explicit opportunities for spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development.

Curriculum Overview

Term 1	Autumn 1	Why this? Why now?	Autumn 2	Why this? Why now?
Year 7	KS3 Unit 1: Origins of Abrahamic Faith	Year 7 starts with a unit on the origins of Abrahamic faith. This is done to give the historical and theological background to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. This should help students see the distinctions and connections between these faiths, which they study later in the curriculum. Students begin by following the narrative of the book of Genesis and learning that there are different ways of interpreting scripture (liberal or literal), leading to different worldviews even within the same religion.	KS3 Unit 1: Origins of Abrahamic Faith	Students strengthen their Biblical literacy and build upon their knowledge of the Genesis narrative by studying the narratives of Exodus and Leviticus. They are introduced to the core Abrahamic covenants and patriarchs, such as Adam, Noah, Abraham, and Moses, who they will repeatedly revisit when studying Judaism, Christianity, and Islam later in the curriculum.
Year 8	KS3 Unit 4: Islam	Students build upon their knowledge of the Genesis narrative by studying the origins of the Abrahamic Faith from an Islamic perspective. They then study the origins of the Rashidun Caliphate in order to understand the reasons behind the split between Sunni and Shi'a Islam.	KS3 Unit 4: Islam	Having studied the history of the Rashidun Caliphate and the split between Sunni and Shi'a Islam, students now compare the key beliefs and practices of the two main branches of Islam. For example, students are introduced to the 5 Pillars and the 6 Articles of Faith. Students will also consolidate their knowledge of the Abrahamic Patriarchs and different perspectives regarding the infallibility of scripture.
Year 9	KS3 Unit 7: Life after death	Having studied Philosophy in year 8, students are now introduced to Ethics, where they build upon their knowledge of Leviticus and Jesus' ministry and ethical teaching by studying their impact on and differences to Normative Ethical theories such as Natural Law and Situation Ethics.	KS3 Unit 7: Life after death	Students build upon their knowledge of Jesus' ministry, Leviticus, Natural Law, and Situation Ethics by applying the theories to modern ethical dilemmas such as abortion, euthanasia, animal rights and capital punishment.
Year 10	GCSE (Beliefs and Practices) Unit 1: Christian Beliefs	Students begin their GCSE by studying the key beliefs of Christianity and Islam in depth as this will allow them to construct argument. Students will be able to interpret and compare different sources of authority and apply them to a variety of perspectives concerning ethical and theological dilemmas. In terms of Christianity, students will build upon their knowledge of the Gospel account of the life and	GCSE (Beliefs and Practices) Unit 2: Islam Beliefs	Students will consolidate their knowledge of the key Muslim prophets Adam, Ibrahim, and Muhammad (pbuh) and build upon their knowledge of the 6 Articles of Faith. Students will also consolidate their knowledge of the differences between Sunni & Shi'a Islam.



		ministry of Jesus and consolidate their knowledge of the core Christian beliefs resurrection, salvation, and original sin. Students will also consolidate their knowledge of Liberal and Literal interpretations of the Genesis and Gospel narratives.		
Year 11	GCSE (Themes) Unit 3: Religion and Life	Students build upon their knowledge of topics studied in Year 9 (life after death), including abortion, euthanasia, animal rights and the afterlife. Students will also consolidate their knowledge of Christian and Muslim teachings and scientific theories about the origins of the universe and human life, focusing on the different perspectives of Liberal and Literal Christians.	GCSE (Themes) Unit 4: Crime and Punishment	Students will consolidate their knowledge of capital punishment and Christian and Muslim teachings about taking life, learnt in both religion and life and peace and conflict. They will also apply key ethical theories (e.g., Natural Law and Situation Ethics) to issues surrounding forgiveness, justice, crime, and punishment.
Year 12	A Level Unit 1: Philosophy of Religion	Students begin their A Levels by studying the Philosophy of Religion module which builds upon and consolidates their knowledge of the arguments for the existence of God, learnt at both key stage 3 (Philosophy) and GCSE (Existence of God and Revelation). Students will also build upon their knowledge of the development of Philosophy in Ancient Greece, revisiting topics such as Plato's Cave, which were first introduced to them whilst studying Atheism in year 8.	A Level Unit 1: Philosophy of Religion	Students take a chronological approach to learning about the foundation and growing impact of the Philosophy of Religion, starting with Ancient Greece and exploring its influence on medieval and modern Christian theology. This approach builds upon and consolidates their knowledge of the development of atheism and agnosticism, such as the Problem of Evil and arguments against religious experience.
Year 13	A Level Unit 4: Philosophy of Religion	Students begin Year 13 by building upon their knowledge of Philosophy of Religion by focusing on the attributes of God (e.g., omnipotence, omniscience, and benevolence), first introduced to them in year 7. Students will also consolidate their knowledge of the Problem of Evil by considering the role of Free Will in ethical decision making.	A Level Unit 4: Philosophy of Religion	Students build upon their knowledge of the attributes of God by applying them to discussions about whether we can reveal or understand the true nature of God through using religious language. Concepts such as analogy and symbolism, first introduced to them in Philosophy and Atheism in Year 8, will be built upon to enable students to access concepts such as language games and the verification and falsification principles.



Term 2	Spring 1	Why this? Why now?	Spring 2	Why this? Why now?
Year 7	KS3 Unit 2: Judaism	Each religion is studied with a narrative in mind, to try to explain what the religious tradition means to those who belong to it. Students are taught the Abrahamic religions chronologically, in narrative form, in order to fully explain the influence of Judaism on both Christianity and Islam.	KS3 Unit 2: Judaism	Students build upon their knowledge of the history of the Israelites by continuing the historical narrative of Judaism. Students will study the period between the building of the First Temple in Jerusalem to the destruction of the Second Temple. Students will further build upon their knowledge of the Jewish covenants and patriarchs by exploring influential and enduringly popular Jewish festivals associated with the history of the Israelites, such as Passover, Hanukkah, and Yom Kippur.
Year 8	KS3 Unit 5: Philosophy of Religion	Students engage with the key arguments for and against the existence of God and consider different Christian, Muslim, and non-religious perspectives. The unit begins by unpacking key language, such as 'The God of Classical Theism', Theism and Atheism which they will repeatedly revisit throughout the entirety of the RE curriculum. Through studying Philosophy, students will also be introduced to skills of argumentation, higher order thinking and philosophical debate.	KS3 Unit 5: Philosophy of Religion	Students build upon their knowledge of the nature of God by studying the Design and First Cause arguments for God's existence. Students will then consolidate their knowledge of these arguments by considering their strengths and weaknesses, from both theological and non-religious perspectives. Students will consolidate upon their knowledge of Original Sin and the Problem of Evil by studying the arguments against God's existence. This will allow them to build upon their skills of argumentation and higher order thinking.
Year 9	KS3 Unit 8: Equality	Students build upon their knowledge of racism, sexism, disability, and LGBTQ+ rights learnt in PSHE and consolidate their understanding of the normative ethical theories by applying them to these.		
Year 10	GCSE (Beliefs and Practices) Unit 3: Christian Practices	Students consolidate their knowledge of the sacraments and Christian festivals and apply their knowledge of Jesus' ministry to the missions of Christians in the world today. Students will also build upon their knowledge of Muslim pilgrimages by applying the concept to Christianity.	GCSE (Beliefs and Practices) Unit 4: Islam Practices	Students build upon their knowledge of the 5 Pillars and the Muslim festivals Id-ul-Adha, Id-ul-Fitr and Ashura. Students will consolidate their knowledge of the key similarities and differences between Sunni and Shi'a Islam.
Year 11	GCSE (Themes) Unit 5: Relationships & Families	Students will consolidate their knowledge of topics concerning relationships and families that they studied in PSHE by applying their knowledge of Jesus' ministry and the key ethical theories.	GCSE (Themes) Unit 6: Existence of God and Revelation	Students build upon their knowledge of the First Cause and Design arguments for the existence of God first learnt at KS3. They consolidate their knowledge of miracles and the problem of evil. This module acts as a bridge between GCSE and A Level content.
Year 12	A Level Unit 2: Religious Ethics	Students build upon their knowledge of Normative Ethical theories such as Situation Ethics and Natural Law, before being introduced to Kantian Ethics and Utilitarianism.	A Level Unit 2: Religious Ethics	Having learnt the normative ethical theories in the previous half term, students will consolidate their knowledge through studying Applied Ethics, where they apply the Normative Ethical theories to topics such as Euthanasia and Business Ethics.
Year 13	A Level Unit 5: Religious Ethics	Students will build upon their knowledge of the normative ethical theories and consolidate their knowledge of applied ethics by studying meta-ethics and sexual ethics. Meta-ethics consolidates knowledge gained through the study of religious language and sexual ethics builds upon the equality and relationships and families modules studied in years 9 and 11.	A Level Unit 6: Developments in Christian thought	Students consolidate their knowledge of sexual ethics by applying what they have learnt to gender in theology and society.



Term 3	Summer 1	Why this? Why now?	Summer 2	Why this? Why now?
Year 7	KS3 Unit 3: Christianity	Students build upon their knowledge of Roman occupied Jerusalem by studying the Gospel accounts of Jesus' life, death, resurrection and ministry. Students will consolidate their knowledge of Jewish ethics by comparing the Mitzvot to Jesus' ethics and his criticisms of Orthodox and Pharisaic Judaism.	KS3 Unit 3: Christianity	Students consolidate their knowledge of the Gospel account of Jesus by studying its impact on the development of Christianity. For example, students will study the reasons behind the split between the Catholic and Protestant Church and the impact of this split back then and on Christians today.
Year 8	KS3 Unit 6: Atheism	Students build upon their knowledge of atheism by studying its development in Ancient Greece and consolidate their knowledge of the Protestant Reformation by exploring its impact on the growth of atheism. Students will also consolidate their knowledge of the arguments against God's existence.	KS3 Unit 6: Atheism	Students build upon their knowledge of the development of atheism by studying two contrasting twenty-first century approaches: Humanism and Militant Atheism. Whilst studying Humanism, students will consolidate their knowledge of Jesus' ministry and ethics. Whilst studying Militant Atheism, students will consolidate their knowledge of the attributes of God and the Problem of Evil.
Year 9	KS3 Unit 9: Buddhism	Having learnt the western traditions of the Abrahamic Faiths, students learn the Eastern Tradition of Buddhism to prove a contrast to and counterpoint to the God of Classical Theism. Students build upon their concept of atheism and agnosticism and the problem of evil.	KS3 Unit 9: Buddhism	Students consolidate their knowledge of Jesus' ministry and ethics by contrasting his teachings to those of the Buddha. Students will also consolidate their knowledge of worship in Christianity by drawing a comparison to Buddhist puja.
Year 10	GCSE (Themes) Unit 1: Peace and Conflict	Having studied the key Christian and Muslim beliefs and practices, students are now able to consolidate this knowledge by applying it to a range of ethical issues. Students build upon their knowledge of ethical theories (Situation Ethics, Natural Law) by applying them to topic concerning peace and conflict such as Jihad, justice, and the Sanctity of Life.	GCSE (Themes) Unit 2: Human Rights & Social Justice	Students consolidate their knowledge of topics such as racism, and disability and LGBTQ+ rights first learnt in the year 9 module Equality. They will build upon their knowledge of gender equality learnt in both PSHE and the GCSE module Relationships and Families.
Year 11	Revision and Consolidation	Students revisit core concepts and make new links between themes, beliefs, and practices now that they have finished the course.		
Year 12	A Level Unit 3: Developments in Christian thought	Students build upon their knowledge of Christian Beliefs and Practices, first introduced to them at GCSE. They consolidate their knowledge of life after death and the ministry of Jesus, first studied at KS3.	A Level Unit 3: Developments in Christian thought	Students consolidate their knowledge of the ministry of Jesus by comparing his mission to Dietrich Bonhoeffer and St Augustine. Students consolidate their knowledge of revelation and original sin.
Year 13	A Level Unit 6: Developments in Christian thought	Students will consolidate their knowledge of atheism and religious freedom by studying religious pluralism.	Revision and Consolidation	Students will revisit and consolidate their understanding and the core concepts and make new links between themes, beliefs, and practices now that they have finished the course.



Wider reading

Extracurricular Opportunities (competitions, associations and clubs)

1. Big Questions Club: Friday Lunch time in M11.
2. Debate Club: Monday afterschool in M12.

Academic Reading

[A History of Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years by MacCulloch, Diarmaid \(September 2, 2010\) Paperback: AmazonSmile: MacCulloch, Diarmaid: Books](#)
[God: A Human History: AmazonSmile: Aslan, Reza: 9780552174992: Books](#)
[Battling the Gods: Atheism in the Ancient World: AmazonSmile: Whitmarsh, Tim: 9780571279319: Books](#)
[The Philosophy Book: AmazonSmile: Will Buckingham, Peter J. King, Douglas Burnham, Marcus Weeks, Clive Hill, John Marenbon, DK, Sarah Tomley: 9781405353298: Books](#)
[The Pig That Wants To Be Eaten: And 99 Other Thought Experiments : Baggini, Julian: AmazonSmile: Books](#)
[By Ben DuprÑ 50 Philosophy Ideas You Really Need to Know \(50 Ideas You Really Need to Know series\) \[Hardcover\]: AmazonSmile: Ben DuprC.: 8601410632748: Books](#)
[The Philosopher's Toolkit: A Compendium of Philosophical Concepts and Methods, 3rd Edition: AmazonSmile: Fosl, Peter S., Baggini, Julian: 9781119103219: Books](#)
[Socrates: A Very Short Introduction \(Very Short Introductions\): AmazonSmile: Taylor, C.C.W.: 9780198835981: Books](#)

Revision Guides

For Key Stage 4

1. [New 9-1 GCSE AQA A Religious Studies: Christianity & Islam Revision Question Cards: perfect for exams and mocks in 2022 & 2023 \(CGP GCSE RS 9-1 Revision\): AmazonSmile: Christian, Pountain, CGP Books: 9781789085723: Books](#)
2. [Grade 9-1 GCSE Religious Studies: AQA A Complete Revision & Practice with Online Edition: perfect for catch-up and the 2022 and 2023 exams \(CGP GCSE RS 9-1 Revision\) : CGP Books, CGP Books: AmazonSmile: Books](#)
3. [Grade 9-1 GCSE Religious Studies: AQA A Revision Guide with Online Edition: ideal for catch-up and the 2022 and 2023 exams \(CGP GCSE RS 9-1 Revision\) : CGP Books, CGP Books: AmazonSmile: Books](#)
4. [AQA GCSE Religious Studies A: Christianity and Islam Revision Guide: With all you need to know for your 2022 assessments \(GCSE Religious Studies for AQA\): AmazonSmile: Fleming, Marianne, Power, Harriet, Smith, Peter: 9780198422839: Books](#)
5. [My Revision Notes AQA GCSE \(9-1\) Religious Studies Specification A: AmazonSmile: Parry, Lesley, Hayes, Jan: 9781510404793: Books](#)