

RE at KS3

The teaching of RE in Brighton and Hove is guided by the Standing Advisory Council for RE (SACRE) and refers to the Agreed Syllabus for RE (which is available from the B&H Council website). The teaching of RE in KS3 at Blatch is focused on students understanding what religion is and what it means to be religious, understanding the major beliefs and practices of the world's largest religions and the role of religion in the world and its impact on wider issues. In short, students will be able to know what a religious group's view on a given issue might be, using their understanding of that group's beliefs and how they apply to that issue. The curriculum also gives students the chance to reflect and develop their own spiritual, moral and social values.

RE in Year 9

In our first unit we revisit our initial question from Year 7 "What makes something a religion?". We do this by learning about smaller religions than those we usually study such as Quakerism to ask what about them makes them a religion. We then study groups like Satanists and Jedi to examine what they are missing that makes them not necessarily a religion. We then study cults and how they are different from religions. The purpose of this is that if a student can explain clearly why something is or is not a religion that means they have a full understanding of what exactly a religion is. This is also an opportunity for them to use their learning from so far in KS3 to identify the key features of religion.

In our second unit we study Hindu beliefs. This is a chance for students to study one of the world's largest religions that is becoming increasingly popular and influential in the world. Furthermore it will give students a new perspective after studying the Abrahamic religions. In this unit we study beliefs from Hinduism such as the Trimurti, sacred texts such as the Ramayana as well as concepts like karma, samsara, moksha and dharma. As well as giving students a deep understanding of one of the most important religions in the world this will help students access different ways of thinking about the world and their lives.

In our third unit we study religion, crime and punishment. The purpose of this is for students to use their knowledge of religious beliefs to evaluate different points of view on key issues such as the purpose of punishment, capital punishment and the value of forgiveness. Students will be encouraged to come to their own views about these important questions and debate their point of view. A key skill in RE is arguing for your view and that will be a key focus in this unit. This unit is a chance for students to see how religion influences and affects the society they live in today and for students to evaluate that influence.

In our fourth unit we study Hinduism practises. The purpose of this is for students to see how a non-Abrahamic religion interacts with and influences the world. In these lessons we will learn how Hindus worship, the importance of pilgrimage in Hinduism and Hindu festivals. Further to this we will learn about Hindu views on modern issues such as equality, gender and the environment. In this unit students will use their knowledge from unit two to see how beliefs influence action. Furthermore it is a chance for them to engage in important modern debates while learning new ideas to help them do so.

In our sixth unit we study Buddhism. This leads on well from Hinduism as many of the concepts are shared. They will learn about the life of Siddhartha Gautama, the path to enlightenment, the Four Noble Truths and fundamental beliefs about the world. Studying this unit gives students further access to different points of view by studying a religion which has key ideas which may be new to them and give them a new perspective on life. Buddhism is one of the religions we will study at GCSE so if students wish to carry on with the subject at GCSE this will set them up very well for KS4.