



Vyners School

Striving for
Excellence

Welcome to the RE/Ethics Department



Staff:

- Mrs Nathan, Subject Leader
- Mrs Foster, Deputy Headteacher



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Mrs Nathan



Mrs Foster



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Our Year 7 Curriculum

In Year 7 Vyners students will study Philosophy and engage in moral debates. They will start with looking at themselves and their beliefs about the existence of God. They will look at the big questions of life and try and come up with answers for them. They will then go on to look at Religion and the Media, then Hinduism, Sikhism and Judaism.



“I thought Ethics would be exactly the same as the RE we studied at primary school, but it was much more interesting and we had a lot of debates.” Year 8 student



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Our Key Stage 4 Curriculum



At GCSE students are entered for GCSE qualifications with AQA. Students will study four topics, these are Relationships and Family and Peace and conflict. These themes are studied from a humanist, Christian and Muslim perspective. Also studied is The Nature of God and Muslim beliefs. All students start the GCSE in Year 9 and sit the public exam in May at the end of Year 10.

“The RE GCSE is far more interesting than I thought, I find myself enjoying studying the religious side of the curriculum, even more than the themes.”

Year 11 Student



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Our Key Stage 5 Curriculum

At A Level all students are welcome including those that did not choose to study Religious Education at GCSE. It will however include a lot of essay writing and therefore it is paramount that you achieve a good grade in English. You will study a wide range of topics including:



Philosophy of religion, such as ancient philosophical influences, arguments about the existence or non-existence of God and the challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil.

Religion and Ethics, this includes sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs, debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience and the application of ethical theory to two contemporary issues of importance.

Development in Religious thought, this includes, religious beliefs, values and teachings, their interconnections and how they vary in the world, practices which shape and express religious identity, and how these vary within a tradition and sources of religious wisdom and authority.



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Our Key Stage 5 Curriculum



We are currently looking into starting the A Level in Religious Studies and Philosophy with OCR. The aim is for students to develop an understanding and appreciation of religious thought and its contribution to individuals, communities and societies. Students will develop their skills of critical analysis in order to construct balanced, informed arguments and responses to religion, philosophical and ethical ideas. It aims to engage students thoroughly and develop an interest in Religious Studies which extends beyond the classroom and can be applied to the world around them.



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Our Co-curricular Offer

Students are invited to join topical debates and ask the big questions. For example we had a large group of Yr 7 and 8 students asking why many Christians do not take part in Halloween activities and then enquiring about the origins of the event.

Past trips have included taking Yr 9 to the Synagogue in Northwood and meeting a Holocaust survivor. This was extremely successful and an invaluable experience. We have also had a Christian interactive computer session on a mobile bus parked on the school site with KS3 students. Student feedback for this event was hugely positive. More recently we took Yr 9 and 10 students to St Paul's Cathedral in London.





Frequently Asked Questions

Do you cover all the world religions? Yes we study all the major world religions. But at GCSE we only focus on Christianity and Islam.

Why do you only focus on these two particular religions at GCSE? The exam board only requires the study of two religions. Christianity is still the largest religion in the world, it relates to History and English. Islam is the fastest growing and the religion that students ask a lot of questions about.

Is Religious Education compulsory at GCSE? Yes, everyone starts the GCSE in Yr 9. All students are entered for the RE GCSE. All students will sit the public exam at the end of Yr 10.

What is the difference between Ethics and RE? They are intertwined. Ethics involves the debate and discussion of a variety of moral issues, many of which include religion, but do not have to.



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**We look forward to meeting you in
September 2025!**