

## Religious Studies – Year 7

### **Curriculum Intent**

In Year 7, Religious Studies introduces students to the academic study of religion, belief and worldview. Students explore core teachings within the Abrahamic and Dharmic traditions while developing the ability to describe, explain and compare beliefs using accurate terminology. The curriculum establishes secure foundations in theological enquiry and prepares students for deeper study in later years.

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### **What Students Will Study Across the Year**

#### **Autumn Term – The Abrahamic Traditions and Beliefs about God**

Students begin by exploring what Religious Studies is and considering how beliefs and worldviews are formed and influenced. They then study the Abrahamic traditions, focusing particularly on Judaism and teachings about God. Key ideas such as monotheism, covenant and divine characteristics are examined through narratives including Abraham and the Exodus, alongside practices such as Passover. Students consider how beliefs shape identity and community, and develop skills of comparison by identifying similarities and differences between traditions through structured written responses.

#### **Spring Term – Who Is Jesus? Historical and Theological Perspectives**

Students examine the life of Jesus within his historical context, exploring key events, interpretations of his identity and the cultural and political setting of first-century Judea. They consider how biblical accounts are understood and represented, and reflect on how images and interpretations of Jesus have developed over time. This unit strengthens critical thinking about sources and interpretation, while deepening understanding of Christian belief and its historical roots.

#### **Summer Term – Dharmic Traditions and Hindu Belief**

Students are introduced to Dharmic traditions, focusing primarily on Hinduism. They explore key beliefs about creation, the role of deities and patterns of worship, considering how these beliefs are expressed in both Indian and global contexts. Students examine how Hinduism can encompass a range of practices and perspectives, and reflect on similarities and differences between Dharmic and Abrahamic traditions. This consolidates their comparative skills and broadens their understanding of religious diversity.

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### **Assessment and Progression**

Students are assessed through knowledge checks, vocabulary retrieval and extended responses to enquiry questions. Assessment focuses on accurate use of terminology, clear explanation of beliefs and structured comparison between traditions. By the end of Year 7, students have a secure foundation in core religious concepts and are prepared to explore more complex theological and ethical questions in Year 8.