

RELIGIOUS STUDIES AT WADDESDON

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10)



The Religious Studies Department at Waddesdon Church of England School lies at the heart of our vibrant and caring community. The aim of the Religious Studies curriculum is to help students learn and grow in three main ways: personally, academically and spiritually. As a seed becomes a tree that bears fruit, we aim for our students to flourish by 'living life to the full' throughout their journey with us at school and beyond Waddesdon. Through our curriculum we help students explore four life questions:

Who am I? Why am I here? What do I desire? How then shall I live?

In line with the Church of England character of the school, the Religious Studies curriculum

aims to deepen the students' understanding of the Christian faith, whilst at the same time providing an open-minded approach to exploring a variety of religious and non-religious world views. The current staffing in the department includes a Humanist, a Christian and a Muslim. This pluralism among colleagues reflects life in modern Britain and we encourage students to learn from each other, to foster a mutual understanding of different world views and beliefs. Religious Studies, therefore, plays a major role in contributing to the whole-school expression of an ethos of Dignity and Respect for all.

All students in Key Stage 3 receive one lesson of RS a week. GCSE courses begin in Year 9, in line with the school's accelerated curriculum, and all students take the full

course GCSE examination. We follow the AQA specification and students explore Christianity and Buddhism in depth, as well as four Ethical Themes. At A Level, students study Philosophy, Ethics and Christianity. This is a well-established course with consistently high results.

We enjoy close and positive ties with local faith communities. At Key Stage 3 all students in Year 7 visit the local church in Waddesdon as part of their unit on Christian worship. In Year 8 all students visit the local mosque in Aylesbury as part of their unit on Islam. We regularly hold ITAG ('Is There a God?') sessions for students with invited speakers from leading universities who are experts in the fields of science and philosophy.

In our most recent SIAMS inspection (2018), the quality of provision was judged to be 'Outstanding'. The department and curriculum are well resourced with knowledge organisers, regular retrieval quizzes and homework tasks centred around disciplinary knowledge all in place. We want to ensure that all students are able to flourish in their studies.



Who are you? Why are you here? What do you desire? How then shall you lead?

We are looking to appoint an open-minded, thoughtful and proactive Head of RS. You will be likely be an existing Head of RS, or experienced RS teacher, who is keen to expand your knowledge, experience and impact in a role which encompasses the whole school community.

You will be passionate about why RS matters for all young people and the enduring influence that it has beyond examination measures. You will love blending content with pedagogy to provide students with the finest educational experience and be excited about how excellent RS teaching can shape, and equip, our young people for their future lives.

We are a collaborative and happy team and look forward to meeting you and working with you.

GCSE

Year	Number in year group	Number of entries	Entries (% of cohort)	% 9-8	% 9-4	% 9-1	Progress measure
21-22	145	145	100	10	76	100	SPI 0.10 - 55% on or above target
22-23	136	132	97	7	78	98	SPI 0.10 - 55% on or above target
23-24	134	130	97	11.5	70	100	SPI 0.15 - 57.9% on or above target

A Level

Year	Number of entries	% A*-A	% A*-C	% A*-G	Progress measure
21-22	27	15	78	100	ALPS 5
22-23	19	0	58	100	ALPS 6
23-24	9	33	89	100	ALPS 3

September 2024

