

## Religious Education Curriculum

The Religious Education (RE) curriculum follows the schools aims of Learning, Loving, Living. This is shown by the fact that RE enables students not just to learn about different religions and beliefs, but also to consider their own responses to the religious and philosophical questions and issues raised. As such, RE is uniquely placed to support students' SMSC education and to prepare them for life in society beyond school. Through studying RE, students become more aware of the diversity of belief and practice in the modern world, and are encouraged to show respect and tolerance for beliefs different to their own. RE at Bishop Ramsey provides students with the opportunity to learn about all six major world religions throughout KS3 and KS4. The emphasis at KS3 is more on Christianity, to reflect the Christian nature of the school. However, the department recognises that students also need to be aware of the other main religions due to the multi-cultural nature of Britain today, hence their inclusion in the curriculum. The teaching of Religious Studies is varied and discussion features heavily in lessons. Students are encouraged to voice their opinions and respectfully respond to the views of others, meaning an ethos of tolerance and respect is encouraged in all lessons.

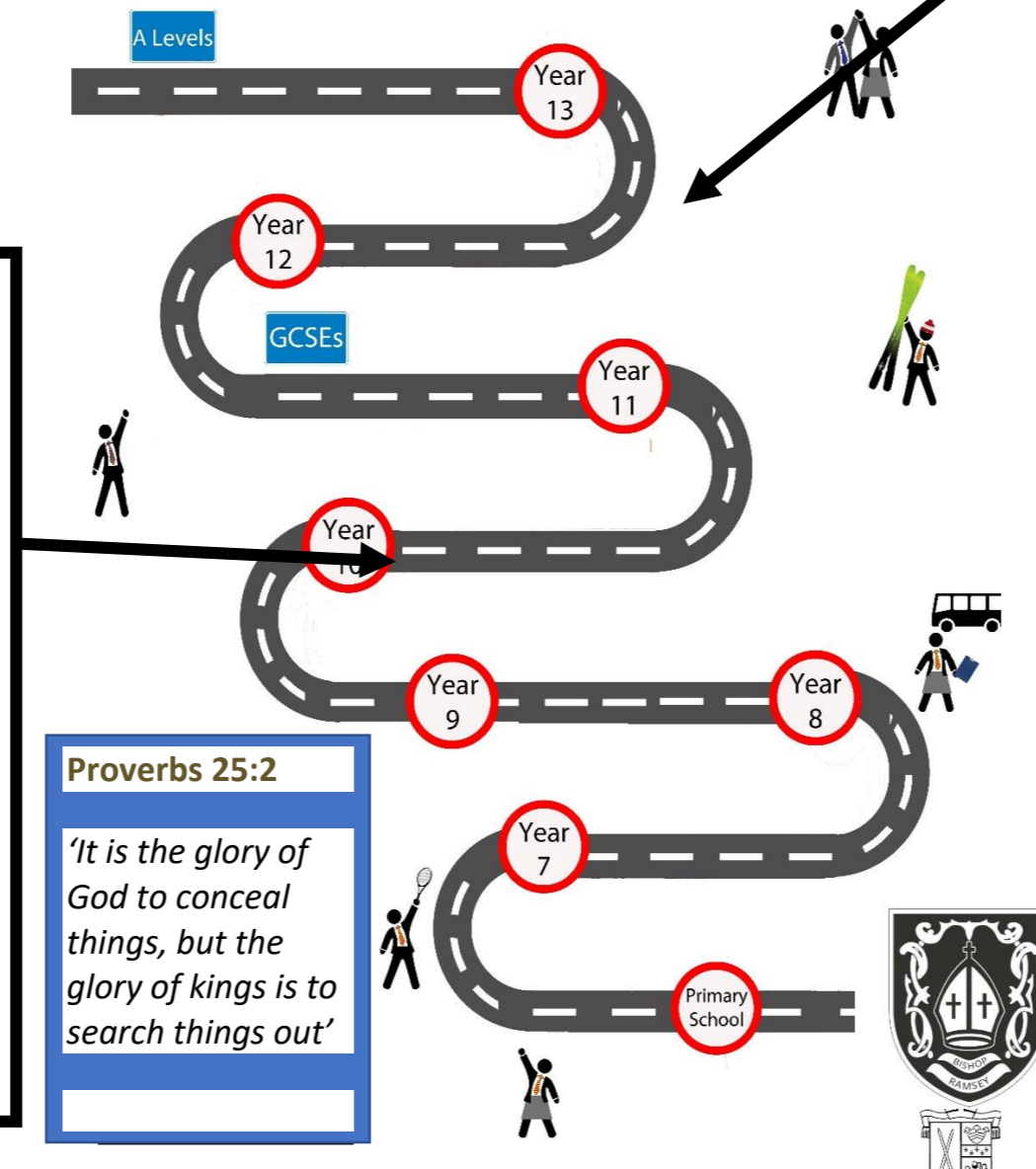
### Key Stage 5

At KS5 students are taught three modules, which are Philosophy of Religion, Religion and Ethics and Developments in Christian Thought. Students in Year 7 are taught a Philosophy topic and in Year 8 are taught an Ethics module in order to create the foundations for the study of these modules at KS5. The focus of all three of the modules, but especially Developments, is Christianity, hence this also builds on what students have learnt about this religion at KS3 and KS4. Students are required to write essays and so the writing practice of the longer 12 mark answers at GCSE has helped to prepare them somewhat for this.

### Key Stage 3

The KS3 RE curriculum involves a significant study of Christianity (to support the school's Christian ethos), it also includes units on four of the five other main world religions: Judaism, Hinduism, Sikhism, and Buddhism (Islam is studied in KS4). We combine these units that focus on the belief and practice within a specific religion with more some broad, thematic units, for example philosophy and ethics, and religion in the UK. By the end of KS3, students should have developed knowledge of world religions, and an appreciation of how religion might influence people in the UK today. This gives students a solid foundation on which to build when progressing to GCSE RS (a core subject). The KS3 RE curriculum is designed to engage students through a range of learning activities, including regular discussions, peer work, and creative work. It also gives students the opportunity to begin to develop and practice some of the key skills that will be needed for GCSE RS, including giving developed explanations, and being able to justify their own opinions.

## The Bishop Ramsey Curriculum Learning Journey



### Key Stage 4

At KS4, students focus on the study of two religions in greater depth (Christianity and Islam), and consider religious and secular attitudes towards contemporary issues through the study of four themes (Relationships and Families, Religion and Life, Religion, Peace and Conflict, and Religion, Crime and Punishment). This provides the scope for discussion of different beliefs, views and opinions. Students are encouraged to reflect on and develop their own values and beliefs, and to gain a greater understanding of the values and beliefs of others, which prepares them for life in a diverse, multi-faith society. Students are given the opportunity to analyse and evaluate the influence of religion on individuals, communities, and society, thereby increasing their understanding of the role of religion in modern Britain. They develop their awareness of similarities and differences within and between religions, including different interpretations of religious texts. Building upon skills developed in KS3, students will learn to construct balanced and structured written arguments. Students are taught the knowledge and skills from early on in KS4, with the course beginning in Year 9 to ensure sufficient curriculum time for students to work towards achieving their potential in this subject. The first topic focuses on Christianity, to build upon learning in KS3.

### Skill Development

Students are taught a wide variety of skills in their study of Religious Education across all key stages. Students are taught literacy skills, as responding in written form to questions posed about issues surrounding the religions is important to further their understanding. Students are also taught tolerance and respect due to the sensitive nature of some of the topics which are discussed. Students develop their listening and speaking skills as they are often required to listen, and respond to, the views of their peers. They are required to formulate their views in both an oral and written form, using balanced and reasoned arguments, hence reasoning is also a skill which is enhanced by a study of Religious Studies