

Religious Education

Religious Education (RE) is a compulsory part of the Northern Ireland curriculum, although parents have the right to withdraw their child from part or all of RE or collective worship.

The programmes of study follow the guidelines set out in the Northern Ireland Curriculum. Religious Education includes Christianity, Morality and two world religions: namely Judaism and Islam.



Sarah Emmerson from Scripture Union discussing real life issues during lessons



Members from the Baptist Bible College during discussion with pupils during Religious Education lessons

Key Stage 3



All pupils in Key stage 3 follow a planned programme.

The four main areas are:

Learning Objective 1: The Revelation of God

- God and the Bible
- God's relationship with his chosen people

Learning Objective 2: The Christian Church

- The Early Church

Learning Objective 3: Morality

- Choices to be made in our society today

Learning Objective 4: World Religions

- Christianity, Judaism, Islam

Within these topics, the pupils are given the following opportunities:

- To show a deeper understanding by thinking critically and flexibly, solving problems and making informed decisions.
- To demonstrate creativity and initiative when developing ideas and following them through;
- To work effectively with others;
- To demonstrate self-management by working systematically, persisting with tasks, evaluating and improving own performance;

Key Stage 4 (GCSE and OCN)

GCSE Religious Studies is an academic qualification that builds on the Key Stage 3 Curriculum and provides a foundation for pupils intending to study Religious Studies at a higher level.

Within GCSE Religious Studies

- There is no controlled assessment; the assessment comprises 100% external written papers. (two – 1.5 hour papers)
- The topics are accessible to candidates of any religious persuasion or none.

What will I study?

- Pupils will study two units



- Pupils will take one assessment unit at the end of one year of study, and the other assessment unit at the end of the second year of study.

Unit 1: - An introduction to Christian Ethics; including:

- Personal and Family Issues
- Matters of Life and Death
- Care for the Environment
- Equality
- War and Peace

Unit 2: Christianity through a study of the gospel of Matthew; including:

- The identity of Jesus
- Jesus the Miracle Worker
- The Kingdom of God
- The death and Resurrection of Jesus
- The Place and Nature of Christian Discipleship

Within OCN Religious Studies

There is no examination; the assessment comprises 100% internal portfolios.

- The topics are accessible to candidates of any religious persuasion or none.

What will I study?

Pupils will study nine units which include:

- **Unit 1: Life of a famous person**
- **Unit 2: Exploring religious traditions within own community**
- **Unit 3: World Faiths**
- **Unit 4: Addiction**
- **Unit 5: Prejudice and Reconciliation**
- **Unit 6: Marriage and Divorce**
- **Unit 7: Charity and Charities**
- **Unit 8: Life and Death Issues**
- **Unit 9: Exploring personal identity and Faith**



Castleberg High School