



## Why study Religious Studies at Formby High School?

Religious Studies is a thought-provoking and challenging course focusing on Philosophy, Ethics and a study of the beliefs, teachings and practices of one world religion. It is a highly respected academic qualification, developing skills of reasoning, critical evaluation and abstract thinking and sharpening your ability to read for information, write structured essays and construct effective arguments. You will learn about and reflect upon the big ideas of some of the greatest thinkers in human history through a rigorous study involving a range of activities which will prepare you well for university, whatever you go on to study.

### What does the course involve?

You will study towards the Eduqas WJEC A Level in Religious Studies. There are three areas of study. Philosophy of Religion includes elements such as arguments for the existence of God, challenges to religious belief, the nature of miracles and how language is used in religious philosophy. You will engage with the big ideas and find out what different scholars think about how convincing they are.

Ethical Philosophy involves the analysis of various methods that scholars have proposed for determining what is right or good, such as whether it is following the rules or doing what is best that matters most, together with theories such as Situation Ethics, Utilitarianism and Natural Law. You will also explore moral issues such as sexual ethics, animal experimentation, immigration and capital punishment as well as considering the question of whether we are truly free.

The world religion you will study is Buddhism. You will explore the core teachings and beliefs of Buddhism and the ways in which those beliefs influence the practices and lives of believers as well as the social and historical development of the religion and the work of scholars on the subject.

You will sit a separate, 2 hour examination in each of the three areas of the course. In each examination you will be asked to choose two essay questions from a total of five.

### What can the qualification lead to?

Religious Studies is a useful qualification for anyone thinking of a career or profession where your decisions will affect the lives of others. Apart from Philosophy and Theology, former students have gone on to study subjects such as Anthropology, Art, Business Studies, English, Forensic Sciences, History, IT, Law, Medicine, Journalism, Nursing, Teaching, Town Planning and Youth Work. Others have pursued careers such as the Police Service, Human Resources and Retail Management.

### What are the entry requirements?

Grade 6 in GCSE Religious Studies or grade 6 in English Language or Literature.

### Which other subjects complement RS?

Religious Studies students often study one or more of:

- Ancient History
- English
- Geography
- Government and Politics
- History

However, a number of students have successfully combined it with subjects like:

- Business
- Theatre Studies
- Film Studies
- Languages
- Mathematics
- Physical Education
- Sciences
- Art

“Religious Studies is a subject I have found constantly fascinating and engaging. There is a diverse range of content that is taught in the course, which constantly keeps it fresh and interesting, from the study of Buddhism, a belief system completely different to anything I had learned about before, to Ethics and Philosophy, in which we have covered a wide breadth of concepts and theories, originating from Ancient Greece to modern day thinkers. Though the ideas explored in the subject are often complex, they are taught with clarity and patience, making it truly satisfying when you are able to understand them. Due to the essay writing aspect of the course, I have found Religious Studies very useful alongside my other subjects, English and History, as the ability to craft a well-focused and evaluative argument is invaluable to both, and I am sure that the critical thinking skills I have developed in RS will serve me far beyond A Levels.”

**Emily chose to stay at Formby High Sixth Form**

