

KS3 Curriculum INTENT

To enable students to flourish as citizens in a multicultural and global community in which students are confident to share their own beliefs but also appreciate world views and beliefs different to their own.

Key Stage 3 Curriculum Information

The Religion, Philosophy and Ethics Key Stage 3 learning journey invites students to explore, think deeply and examine different religious perspectives, cultural practices, philosophical ideas and ethical issues, while developing critical thinking skills.

The learning journey begins in Year 7 with students exploring what religion is, including an investigation of concepts such as spirituality, fact, faith, belief and opinion. Year 7 RPE aims to build foundational knowledge of the beliefs and practices of the main world religions, allowing this to be built upon, predominantly in Years 8 and 9, but beginning at the end of Year 7 with an exploration of how religion and belief impact culture and ways of life around the world.

In Year 8, students continue to develop their understanding of world religions and also explore how these beliefs impact the world through topics of 'Belief in Action' and 'Religion and Conflict'. This includes learning about individuals that have impacted the world such as Dr Martin Luther King, Malcolm X and Malala Yousafzai in the former, and an exploration of historical conflicts and how religious and non-religious belief systems have been involved in these events in the latter. Year 8 RPE finishes with the topic of 'Happiness', incorporating religious, philosophical, and psychological responses to the question of meaning and happiness.

In Year 9 students are challenged to critically evaluate philosophical ideas and ethical issues such as the nature of morality, what it means to be human and a range of ethical issues such as animal testing, euthanasia and capital punishment. Key Stage 3 concludes with the topic of argumentation where students research and debate a topic of their choice. Religion, Philosophy and Ethics is a very successful subject at Caldew School, students can choose to continue their learning journey by studying the Religion, Philosophy and Ethics GCSE. The Religion, Philosophy and Ethics GCSE results are excellent.

Beside the option to study RPE as GCSE level, topics of religion, culture and ethics are incorporated into the KS4 Learning for Life curriculum which is continued during tutor time and in weekly Learning For Life lessons.