

Updated: September 2023
Updated: September 2022
Updated: February 2021
Curriculum Intent and Rationale first draft: November 2020

Holy Trinity Catholic School



Faculty of Religious Education Curriculum Rationale and Intent

Intention of Religious Education at Holy Trinity

The intention of the RE curriculum at Holy Trinity is best summarised through our motto, 'Inspirante per fidem' (inspiring through faith). Our intention is to inspire our pupils, to make them faith-filled and hopeful individuals, who hold a deeper understanding of their own faith or spirituality. Through good quality teaching and rigours enquiry we want to encourage our pupils to be ambitious and more confident in themselves, able to question and come to their own conclusions and beliefs, whilst broadening their horizons and making more tolerant, understanding and welcoming of others of different communities, creeds and world views.

As there is no set National Curriculum for RE and as a Catholic school we are required to follow the Curriculum Directory given to us by the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales the curriculum has been designed to best serve our pupils at Holy Trinity whilst adhering fully to the Directory. From September 2023 we will be phasing in the new Religious Education Directory (RED) and moving away from the old Religious Education Catholic Directory. This means that year 7 in 2023 will start the new RED and follow it through to Year 9. By September 2025 all years in KS3 will be on lesson that adhere and follow the new RED

The Key Stage Three curriculum is designed to holistically develop our pupils, to encourage pupils to become more critical and evaluative, more sure and confident in themselves and to know of God's love for all of His creation. Academically it is designed give pupils an understanding of the Catholic faith and community whilst also giving them a broad and balanced understanding of different religions and world views and ultimately preparing them for their GCSE study.

Curriculum Content

Year 7

New RED – utilising the 'Source to Summit' resources.

YEAR	TOPICS					
YEAR 7	CREATION AND COVENANT	PROPHECY AND PROMISE	GALILEE TO JERUSALEM	DESERT TO GARDEN	TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH	DIALOGUE AND ENCOUNTER

In year 7 pupils start to follow the new programme of study; "Source to Summit" that has been created with the new Catholic Churches RED in mind. For the first time in its history the directory has been written in quite a prescriptive open and mirrors a scheme of work to help teachers deliver the desired content and ensure quality education. Our intent is that we use both the Red and the resource "Source to Summit" to create a curriculum that is accessible yet challenging and prepares

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pupils for GCSE study. We will also tailor assessments in order to prioritise the successful mastery of skills that are required for GCSE study.

This ongoing process will take shape and develop over time before being fully implemented and embedded in practice. Prior to the September 2025 deadline.

Year 8

YEAR 8	CREATION: <i>'The beginning and its meaning'</i>	JUDAISM 'How God called the Jewish people and their faith now'	THE GOD WHO SPEAKS: <i>God's final message and our relationship with Jesus</i>	RELIGIONS OF THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT Dharmic religions	RELIGIONS OF THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT Sikhism
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In Year 8 pupils follow a programme of study that is designed to build upon basic Catholic theology and give a more philosophical insight into religious concepts. Pupils are also given the opportunity to look at other faiths so that they can learn about them and also explore their own faith as for many in our school are not of the Catholic faith.

Pupils explore ideas of creation and man's place in the world, the evolution of God's Biblical message, the Jewish faith and how this gave rise to Jesus's message. Before then studying the religions of the Indian subcontinent (Sikhism, Buddhism, Hinduism)

The module 'The God who speaks' is in response to the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales who have announced that the year 2020 will be dedicated to a focus on the Bible and 'The God Who Speaks'. This is to coincide with the 10th anniversary of Verbum Domini – Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation on 'The Word of the Lord' and the 1,600 anniversary of St Jerome's death. As a department, we felt it was true that pupils needed to better understand who the living God can speak to us through the living word of God that is the scripture. We also believe that looking at certain scripture we can better prepare our student for GCSE study so that they understand the Bible more as a resource, the history of the Bible and the societies recorded within it as well as how this still relates to us today.

We choose to teach these topics in Year 8 to allow pupils to build upon the concepts looked at in year 7 and prepare them for the topics they will look at in year 9 and in GCSE study where they will have to understand not just what people believe but then out that leads to further beliefs and impacts their actions.

The intent is to prepare pupils for greater in depth theological study in year 9 and to prepare them for an outside world, its diverse nature especially in our location. To ensure pupils have an understanding that God loves them as an individual, that He has created this world for them and that they have been set aside for a purpose.

Year 9

YEAR 9	ISLAM	WHO AM I?	RELATIONSHIPS, FAMILY & SOCIETY	GCSE JUDAISM
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In year 9 pupils follow a programme of study that brings together important real world content with theological study. Firstly, pupils study the final Abrahamic religion of Islam they learn how Islam has

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been influenced by Judaism and Christianity but still a unique faith in itself. The 'Who am I' topic which is focus on personal identity and respect of one's self, whilst looking at the Capital Virtues and Vices. Pupils then study religious teachings on the family and relationships looking at various SRE content. Throughout the year there is a focus on how each topic is portrayed or relates to social media, media/news and the online world.

We have chosen to teach pupils this content in year 9 as they are of an age and academic maturity that they can grasp the concepts, also because some of these topics are ultimately important at this time in a young person's development. At this age pupils are more vulnerable to social media and the pressures of peers and teenage life and so we wanted to look at what the Church can teach them about themselves and about self-respect before delving into what would be direct SRE related content which we do in Year 9 and they will also do in PSD lessons outside of RE.

The intent in to inspire and promote philosophical enquiry as well support practical applications of the messages of God and the Church on human life and the purpose of the individual. As well as ensure pupils have a greater in-depth understanding of Judaism and the Bible.

Key Stage 4

10	GCSE JUDAISM Beliefs & Practices (Sept-Dec)	FOUNDATIONAL CATHOLIC THEOLOGY Origins & Meanings (Jan - April)	FOUNDATIONAL CATHOLIC THEOLOGY Good & Evil (May - July)	
11	APPLIED CATHOLIC THEOLOGY Life After Death (Sept-Dec)	APPLIED CATHOLIC THEOLOGY Sin & Forgiveness (Jan - April)	GCSE REVISION & MOCKS (April-May)	EXAMS

In Key stage 4 our curriculum is of course in line with the exam board and GCSE specification. We have chosen to teach the EDUQAS RE GCSE ROUTE B. This is after consultation and guidance from the Archdiocese of Birmingham and the Bishops of England and Wales. This is also the reason we choose our second religion to be Judaism; this brings us in line with most Catholic schools across the country.

We continue where we finished year 9 with a recap of Jewish beliefs and then a study of Jewish practices. Knowledge of Judaism and the history of Judaism helps inform the Biblical history that will inform the next topics content when we then start to look at the Foundational Catholic Theology, Origins & meanings and Good & Evil. We find that these more philosophical topics are more engaging and have links that allow pupils to build better mental models after having studied Judaism. Finally, in Year 11 pupils will start their study of Applied Catholic Theology; Sin & Forgiveness and Life after Death. This builds on the foundational theology studied before and requires the prior knowledge, in-depth study and more time than perhaps other areas of Catholic study because the ideas explored are of a uniquely Christian Theological nature and often require much dissection and exploration before they are fully understood by our pupils.

Year 11, tend to finish the GCSE content before Easter we then use this time to go through Judaism in more detail and make content GCSE relevant as well as prepare generally for the GCSE exams in May.