Religious Studies

CURRICULUM INTENT

STOCKSBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

At Stocksbridge High School, Religious Studies plays a central role in preparing our pupils to thrive in a diverse and interconnected world. Our curriculum is carefully designed to reflect our school values — be kind, be positive, be confident, and be reflective — while offering a rich and challenging exploration of religion, philosophy, and ethics.

Through Religious Studies, pupils at Stocksbridge High School will: Gain knowledge and understanding of diverse worldviews; Develop empathy, respect, and tolerance for others; Engage with big questions about meaning, morality, and existence; Learn to listen carefully, form their own opinions, and articulate those opinions confidently and respectfully;Be inspired by specialist teachers who are passionate about the subject; Become reflective individuals who contribute positively to both the school and the wider community.

Our Values in Action

Be Kind: Pupils learn to respect and value the beliefs and practices of others, developing empathy and compassion through the study of the six major world religions and non-religious worldviews.
Be Positive: Lessons are taught through engaging themes and big questions, encouraging curiosity, optimism, and a willingness to explore new ideas.
Be Confident: We challenge pupils to listen carefully to different perspectives, to form their own opinions, and to articulate those opinions clearly and respectfully in debate, discussion, and written work.
Be Reflective: Pupils are guided to reflect on their own beliefs and values, considering how these shape their identity, their choices, and their role in society.

Our curriculum is varied and thematic, taught through units that connect religious and non-religious worldviews to contemporary issues and ultimate questions. Pupils explore all six world religions alongside secular and humanist perspectives, ensuring a balanced and inclusive approach. Lessons are deliberately challenging, encouraging critical thinking, reasoning, and the ability to evaluate complex moral and philosophical ideas. Debate and discussion are central, giving pupils the opportunity to test ideas, challenge assumptions, and develop well-reasoned arguments.
Importantly, Religious Studies is taught by subject specialists who are passionate about the subject, ensuring that pupils are inspired by expert knowledge, enthusiasm, and a commitment to high standards.

Stocksbridge High School is proud to support and reflect the local community. Religious Studies helps pupils understand the diversity of beliefs and practices within our area and beyond, fostering respect and dialogue. We encourage pupils to see themselves as active citizens who can contribute positively to community life, guided by kindness, confidence, and reflection.