

Curriculum Overview for Religion, Philosophy and Ethics - Year 8

When?	What?	Why?	How?
Autumn Half Term 1	What happens when we die?	Matters concerning the afterlife is an important religious, philosophical and ethical theme. Our students will consider this question in a sensitive way, with each lesson having a disclaimer. This also provides foundational knowledge for KS4 and 5	A series of lessons where our students will ask questions about loss, the soul, various religious perspectives and the nature and purpose of funerals.
Autumn Half Term 2	What does it mean to live a good life?	This is a more in depth look at ethics, as it is one of the key threads of RPE. Our students will look at several different systems of what could make something 'right' or wrong.	A series of lessons that introduce our students to different views of what makes something 'ethical' whether it is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● based on finding the best outcome for that situation ● Knowing which actions should and should not be carried out ● Developing virtues to help people make decisions. ● Whether following the rules is always correct
Spring Term	What level of responsibility do humans have towards animals and the environment?	Environmental issues are issues that affect us all. This unit applies religious and ethical views to the important question of how humans treat the environment. One of the themes for the GCSE RPE looks deeply into questions of environmental responsibility.	A variety of lessons where our students will examine personal, religious and ethical views on issues relating to global warming, pollution, animal rights inclusive of farming and testing.
Summer Half Term 1	What are the similarities and differences in the Abrahamic faiths? (note - this unit is moving to the year 7 curriculum in 2022/2023 and will be replaced by a unit of the 5 pillars and 10 obligatory acts in Islam)	The Abrahamic faiths of Judaism, Christianity and Islam are foundational to what we teach at Thorpe St Andrew. Having a clear understanding of how these three faiths have a shared connection whilst maintaining their differences is important. This builds throughout our KS3 and provides foundational knowledge for our GCSE option that focuses on Christianity and Islam.	A series of lessons that start why Abraham (or Ibrahim) is regarded as a man of faith, the unit explores concepts of the nature of God, morality, initiation and views on the Day of Judgement.
Summer Half Term 2	Is it ever justifiable to go to war? From a Christian and Islamic perspective	Conflict is something that has been a large part of human history and continues to occur. This unit explores the reasons that surround the justification, and non-justification of warfare. Christianity and Islam have been chosen as this supports our teaching of the GCSE RPE course.	A series of lessons where our students will critically compare 'Just War' and 'Lesser Jihad' as well as the beliefs on pacifism and non-violent responses.