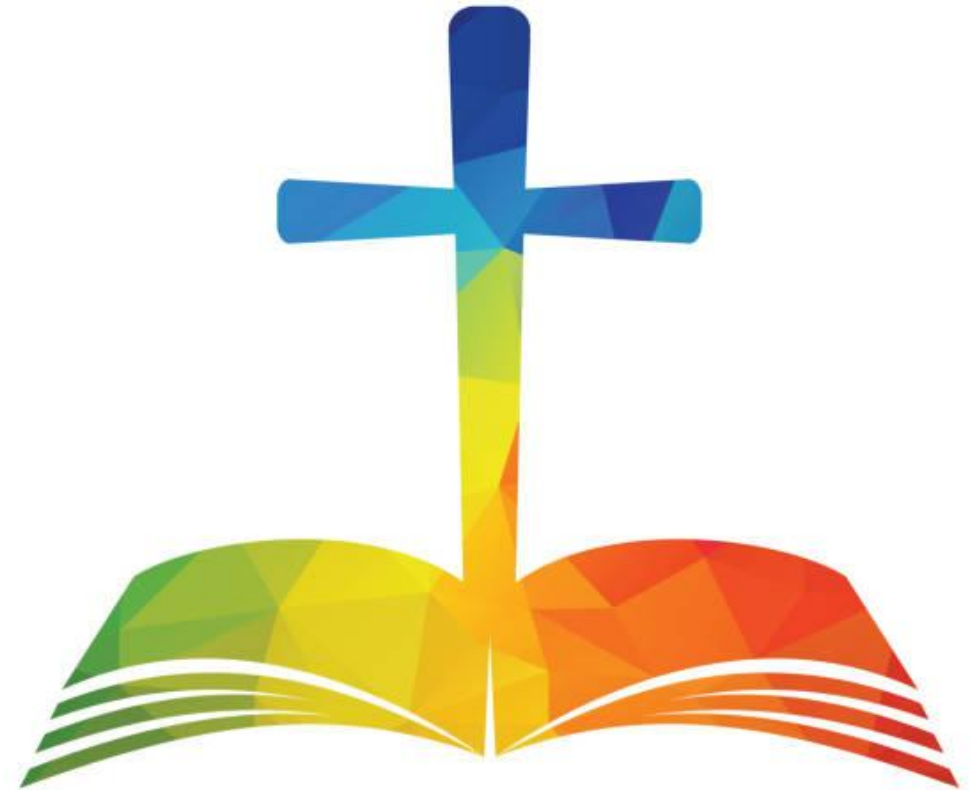


INFORMATION EVENINGS RELIGIOUS STUDIES

2025

IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES WE...

Develop religiously literate
and consciously engaged young
people who have the
knowledge, understanding, and
skills to reflect spiritually, and
think ethically and
theologically, and who
recognise the demands of
religious commitment in
everyday life.



How does God reveal himself to us?

The Notre Dame Learning Journey – Religious Education

YEAR 7

The Notre Dame Community

What are the values of Notre Dame?



The Bible

How was the Bible formed?
How should it be read?



Creation

How was the world created?
What is our role in creation?



Jesus

Who was Jesus? What were the different ideas of who he was?



Holy Spirit

What is the purpose of the Holy Spirit in our life?



Sacraments

What are the sacraments?
How do they help us in life?



Hinduism

What are the beliefs and practices of Hinduism?



Why do we suffer?

YEAR 8

The Fall

Where did sin enter the world?
What impact does this have on us?
How can we be redeemed?



Kingdom of God

Who is the Kingdom of God for?
What is our role in the Kingdom?



Suffering

What are the different types of suffering?
What is the purpose of Jesus' suffering?

Atonement

What is the Old Testament view on atonement?
Should we always be willing to forgive?

Dignity

Are humans special?
Do all humans have inalienable dignity?



Who are we called to love?



Women in the Bible

Who are the key women in the Old Testament?
What is the role of Mary?
How does Mary link to the Old Testament women?



Islam

What are the beliefs and practices in Islam?



Prophecy

How do the prophecies in the Old Testament link to Jesus?



Life and Death

Is there life after death?
How does the afterlife bring hope to Christians?



Discipleship

What are the characteristics of good disciples?
How can we live out our vocation?



Good and Evil

Why does God allow evil?
Who was Jesus?
Does Jesus' life and death solve the problem of evil?



YEAR 11

Life and Death

Is there an afterlife?
Should euthanasia be legal?
Why do Christians believe in resurrection?



The Church

What are the different parts of the Church?
What is the communion of saints?



Judaism

What are the key Jewish beliefs and practices?

YEAR 10

Origins and Meanings

How was the universe created?
Are humans special?
Should abortion be legal?

Sin and Forgiveness?

Is a crime worse than a sin?
Should we always forgive?
Should we allow capital punishment?

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

YEAR 7 DRIVING QUESTION



How does God reveal himself to us?

Topic	Link to driving question
Welcome to Notre Dame	In this unit you will learn what it means to be part of the Notre Dame community, the history of Notre Dame and the key values. As you are new to Notre Dame we want you to understand and appreciate what you are now a part of.
The Bible	The Bible is one of the ways that God has chosen to reveal Himself to us. Building on what you know about the Bible already, this unit will give you a deeper understanding of how the Bible was formed, what is in the Bible and how it can be used in every day life.
Creation	Many people believe we can learn more about God by looking at His creation. In this unit you will learn different beliefs about how the world was created, why we must care for creation and how we can do that.
Jesus	Another way God has revealed Himself to us is through His Son, Jesus. This unit will build on what you have learnt about Jesus previously to understand who Catholics believe Jesus was and why he is so important.
Sacraments	Finally we come to know God better through the sacraments. These sacraments are an extension of the incarnation through time, since the mysteries of Christ's life are the foundations of what he would dispense in the sacraments.
Hinduism	Each year we do an in-depth study of another world faith. In Year 7 we study Hinduism and consider how the gods in Hinduism have revealed themselves to humans. We also look at the key beliefs and practices within Hinduism.



RELIGIOUS STUDIES

YEAR 8 DRIVING QUESTION

What is the meaning of suffering?

Topic	Link to driving question
The Fall	In this unit we look at where suffering first enters God's perfect creation - The Fall of Adam and Eve and Original Sin. We will consider the different teachings about The Fall and the impact that it had on humanity. We also look at the role of baptism in removing original sin.
The Kingdom of God	After gaining an understanding of where suffering may come from we turn to Mark's Gospel to consider what the Kingdom of God is and who it is for. This helps us understand that Jesus' teachings focused on helping those who and suffer.
Suffering	Following on from Jesus' teachings about helping those who suffer we consider Jesus' own suffering. We will reflect on what Jesus' suffering means for us today. We will also study the sacraments and celebrations which are linked to Jesus' death and resurrection.
Life and Death	In this unit we consider how through the gift of eternal life suffering will ultimately be overcome and humanity will spend life in God's presence - a state of pure bliss. We will look at the customs and symbolism in funerals to understand how they reflect these teachings.
Islam	Each year we do an in-depth study of another world faith. In Year 8 we study Islamic beliefs and teachings. During this unit we have a special focus on the beliefs about life and death to tie into your BIG question.



RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Knowledge and Understanding

These questions test how well the students know and understand what they have learnt. They could ask students to define a keyword, describe an event or explain a belief/practice.

Evaluation

These questions give students a statement that they should consider and critically evaluate. They should consider different points of view and evaluate the strength of these view points.

Reflection

These questions ask students to reflect on what they have learnt and think about how it applies to their life and own beliefs.

We frame our discussions and writing around ABC..

A	Argument	Present an argument	One argument is...
B	Build	Explain the argument	'This group' believe this because...
C	Challenge	Why would some people disagree with the argument?	However, some people would argue that...
D	Develop	Explain why people hold these beliefs	They believe this because...
E	Evaluate	Is the argument convincing or not?	This is a convincing argument because...



ASSESSMENT

Students are constantly assessed during RE lessons through different methods. These include key knowledge tests to check learning and understanding of a topic and also written questions and discussions to assess students' evaluation and analysis of statements.

There are 2 summative assessments each year to test their knowledge, understanding and evaluation skills.



HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD

Notre Dame

- Engage with your student about what they have learnt.
- Ask students to explain their own beliefs about topics, ask them why. Don't be satisfied with simple answers.
- Discuss modern and topical issues with them – watch the news, ask for their opinions and challenge them.



ONLINE RESOURCES

- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/rs/>
- <http://request.org.uk/>
- <http://www.rsrevision.com/GCSE/>
- <http://bustedhalo.com/>



H O M E W O R K

- Each unit of work have 3 homework tasks
 1. Keywords – Students will be given a list of keywords to learn and these will be tested in lesson
 2. Comprehension – Students will be given a text to read and comprehension questions to answer
 3. Creative work – Students will be given an opportunity to express what they have learnt creatively. (Artwork, poetry, photography etc)



RELATIONSHIP AND SEX EDUCATION

- This year the RE Department will be delivering Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) for each year group.
- The RE department have had specific training from the Catholic Education Service (CES) around RSE and also have experience dealing with discussion around difficult or sensitive topics.
- We follow the TenTen programme for RSE. This is a programme put together for Catholic Schools.



Why it's needed

Life to the Full addresses the needs of young people where they are at in today's world.

The teaching includes lessons on puberty, personal hygiene, fertility, menstruation, family and friends, sexual intimacy, delaying sex, an understanding of the body, sexuality, marriage, gender, online relationships, social media, consent, grooming, pressure, STIs, contraception and natural family planning, abortion/miscarriage, the effect of drugs and alcohol on relationships, pornography and sexual exploitation. The programme is fully inclusive of all students.



YEAR 7 RELATIONSHIP AND SEX EDUCATION

	Focus	Theme Title	Description
Theme 1	Religious Understanding	Who Am I?	Our core identity is that each of us is a completely unique person, a unity of body and soul, created and loved by God.
Theme 2	My Body	Changing Bodies	Puberty involves physical, emotional and sexual development. Daunting though it can be, it is part of God's plan for us.
Theme 3	Emotional Well-Being	Healthy Inside And Out	Thinking about self-esteem helps us consider its impact and how to nurture it.
Theme 4	Life Cycles	Where We Come From	Sexual intercourse is revealed as more than just a physical act, but a gift from God for married couples, an expression of love and His plan for how babies are made.
Theme 5	Personal Relationships	Family and Friends	Reflecting on different types of friendship and family structure opens up strategies for managing behaviour through consideration of thoughts, feelings and actions.
Theme 6	Keeping Safe	My Life on Screen	Online lives need safeguarding, just like in real life.
Theme 7	Wider World	Living Responsibly	Becoming aware of the effects of actions on others helps us understand the concept of social responsibility.



YEAR 8 RELATIONSHIP AND SEX EDUCATION

	Focus	Theme Title	Description
Theme 1	Religious Understanding	The Search for Love	Beyond romantic feelings and desires, there is a deeper kind of love based on a decision to sacrifice for the good of the other.
Theme 2	My Body	Love People, Use Things	Consumerism can lead to objectification and this could cause us to treat people the way we treat things.
Theme 3	Emotional Well-Being	In Control of My Choices	Desire and attraction can affect the decisions made in relationships and effort and perseverance are needed to prevent them be dominated by lust.
Theme 4	Life Cycles	Fertility and Contraception	Fertility is a gift and responsibility and consideration is given to how methods for managing conception fit with God's plan for sex.
Theme 5	Personal Relationships	Commitment and Marriage	Commitment can take on many forms in different relationships, including sexual relationships and marriage.
Theme 6	Keeping Safe	Understanding Consent	Consent is not just gaining permission for something but involves complexities in both its giving and receiving.
Theme 7	Wider World	Human Rights - And Wrongs	Sexual exploitation brings to light our human rights and responsibilities and the ways they are violated by sexual harassment, assault and rape.



CONTACT

- If you have any questions about what is being studied then please email me on jneal@notredame-high.co.uk