

Intent	Implementation	Impact
<p>The Intent of the Religious Studies curriculum is to help students learn about the world around them and how they fit into it.</p> <p>We believe RS plays a vital role in the development of our students, ensuring that by the time their education at Dene Magna is over, they are able to make judgements and contributions to the world around them. At Dene Magna, we hope students, when they become adults, will leave the Forest of Dean, discover the world and then return to pass on their wisdom to future generations. This is a core belief of Dene Magna and one that the RS department serves extremely well.</p> <p>RS at Dene Magna aims to make that goal less daunting and more achievable through the use of the Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus.</p> <p>The Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus states: "The principal aim of religious education is to explore what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that pupils can gain the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to handle questions raised by religion and belief, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living." (P7)</p> <p>The Forest of Dean has limited religious diversity. However we have access to more diverse communities in Gloucester and also in the larger conurbations that surround the Forest. This environment means it is imperative to 'bring the world' to our students and RS at Dene Magna plays a central role in developing that cultural awareness and understanding of the modern world and its plurality of beliefs.</p> <p>The Intent of the Religious Studies curriculum is to help students learn about the world around them and how they fit into it. We follow the Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus and aim to "prepare children and young people in Gloucestershire for life in a twenty-first century world." (p2)</p>	<p>At KS3, students have two lessons of RS per fortnight. Students who select GCSE RS as an option will receive five lessons a fortnight. Those students who do not select the GCSE option will continue to have one lesson of dedicated RS education per fortnight. In the Sixth Form, students have access to a mandatory ten hours of Religious Studies education through assemblies, tutor sessions and special events.</p> <p>During lockdown, students continued to follow the RS curriculum. They were able to be exposed to a variety of fantastic online resources and stimuli. However, there was an impact on their ability to discuss issues and explore their beliefs and responses to issues with others. Regaining their confidence, understanding of the skills and 'etiquette' of discussion and interaction with others has formed a core part of our response to the lockdown.</p> <p>While learning about both theist and atheist beliefs and practices, students will be challenged to construct well thought out, balanced arguments about ideas and concepts. They will be taught not just about specific religions but also expected to thoroughly engage in thought provoking and challenging topics such as the existence of a god or gods, the afterlife and human suffering.</p> <p>The Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus states that in KS3, "Pupils should be taught knowledge, skills and understanding through learning about Christians, Muslims, Sikhs and Buddhists. Pupils should also encounter non-religious worldviews such as Humanism, and may encounter other religions and worldviews in thematic units where appropriate."</p>	<p>Religious Studies is an immensely satisfying subject to teach and to be taught. It allows students freedom of expression and a chance to develop their communication skills though debate, discussion and creativity.</p> <p>Students gain a strong understanding of the world we live in today, as well as time to consider ethical and moral dilemmas that may face them in their later lives.</p> <p>Students of RS become strong independent thinkers and often go on to study History and / or Politics at A-Level.</p>