

Curriculum Intent for RE at Blessed Robert Sutton Catholic Voluntary Academy

AMBITIOUS – INCLUSIVE – EQUITABLE

	<u>Overall Aim of RE</u> The RE curriculum at BRS is an ambitious exploration of Catholic theology and doctrine, Church history, ethics, and philosophy. As a department we want to give you a foundational knowledge of your faith that you can apply to the modern world so that you can speak confidently and evangelically as missionary disciples. You will develop skills that will allow you to think critically, analyse, interpret, reflect and discern.
	RE will teach spiritual excellence: Religious Education promotes spiritual development by providing opportunities for pupils to reflect on their own beliefs, values, and sense of identity. Through the study of theology, philosophy, and ethics, students engage with ultimate questions about meaning, purpose, existence, and the nature of religious commitment in the contemporary world. The curriculum encourages pupils to develop thoughtful and informed personal values, while fostering curiosity, reflection, and openness to different perspectives. Students are supported in making connections between their learning and their own experiences, enabling them to deepen their understanding of themselves, others, and the world around them.
	RE will teach social excellence: Religious Education promotes social excellence by fostering respect, empathy, and understanding of religious and non-religious worldviews. Through engaging with diverse beliefs and experiences, pupils are encouraged to challenge prejudice, discrimination, and stereotyping, becoming informed and responsible members of society. The curriculum supports pupils in recognising their inherent dignity and self-worth, reflecting on their unique identity, expressing their thoughts and emotions with confidence, and developing positive and respectful relationships with others. Students are encouraged to apply these values beyond the classroom, making a positive contribution to their communities and wider society. Through the study of Catholic Social Teaching, pupils develop an understanding of how the Church calls Catholics to put faith into action, promoting justice, solidarity, human dignity, and the common good. We aim for students to be inspired to live out these principles in their everyday lives and as active citizens.
	RE will teach academic excellence: Religious Education promotes academic excellence through rigorous disciplinary study and the development of theological literacy. Pupils gain a secure understanding and appreciation of both religious and non-religious worldviews, while engaging critically with beliefs, teachings, practices, and sources of wisdom and authority. These include sacred scripture, documents from ecumenical councils, papal encyclicals, and the writings of influential theologians. Teaching develops pupils' substantive knowledge alongside the analytical and evaluative skills required for success in the subject. Students learn to construct well-argued, well-informed, balanced, and structured written responses that demonstrate depth and breadth of understanding. Through this process, we aim for all pupils to become theologically literate and confident in engaging with complex religious and philosophical ideas.
Enrichment opportunities in this subject include: • Mizen foundation group visit • Year group retreats • Themed days • Virtual synagogue tour • Debate	
Careers Links in the subject include: Religious Education develops transferable skills including critical analysis, evaluation, empathy, communication, and ethical reasoning. These skills support progression into a wide range of careers, including education, law, healthcare, social work, counselling, journalism, public service, ministry, and the charitable sector.	
Wider reading opportunities:	

Students are encouraged to deepen their understanding through engagement with scripture, Church documents, theological writings, contemporary ethical debates, academic articles, and literature that explores questions of faith, meaning, morality, and human experience.

Some recommended texts to support the KS3 curriculum:

- **The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe**- A classic fantasy story with strong Christian symbolism.
- **A Monster Calls**- Deals with suffering, grief, truth, and hope. Catholic responses to suffering.
- **The Hiding Place**- The story of Corrie ten Boom and her family's faith during World War II.
- **YouCat**- Explains Catholic beliefs, sacraments, prayer, and morality in a question-and-answer format.
- **DOCAT**- Focuses on Catholic social teaching. Covers justice, poverty, human rights, and caring for creation.

Some recommended texts to support the KS4 curriculum:

- **The Screwtape Letters**- A satirical novel exploring temptation, morality, and spiritual growth.
- **The Power and the Glory**- A classic Catholic novel about a flawed priest living through persecution.
- **To Kill a Mockingbird**- rich in themes of justice, dignity, conscience, and moral courage.
- **The Book Thief**- Explores moral responsibility, human dignity, sacrifice, and resistance to evil.
- **The Case for Christ**- Investigates historical evidence for Jesus.
- **The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth**- Covers Catholic beliefs, prayer, morality, and Church teaching.

Links to CST:

Catholic Social Teaching is woven throughout the curriculum, enabling students to explore issues of justice, human dignity, solidarity, stewardship, and the common good. Pupils are encouraged to consider how faith can inspire positive action and contribute to a more just and compassionate society.

Key Stage 3 Course description

Students will follow a course which is underpinned by the requirements set out by the Curriculum Directory for Catholic Schools. The directory builds on pupils' prior learning by developing a deeper understanding of Catholic beliefs, practices, and traditions while fostering theological literacy. The curriculum is structured around the study of Creation and Covenant, Prophecy and Promise, Galilee to Jerusalem, Desert to Garden, To the Ends of the Earth, and Dialogue and Encounter, enabling pupils to explore Scripture, doctrine, liturgy, morality, and prayer in increasing depth.

Students examine the person and teachings of Jesus Christ, the mission of the Church, the Sacraments, and key aspects of Catholic life and belief. They also engage with other religious and non-religious worldviews, developing respect, understanding, and the ability to participate thoughtfully in dialogue. Through theological enquiry, pupils learn to analyse sources of wisdom and authority, reflect on ethical issues, and apply Catholic Social Teaching to contemporary questions, supporting their spiritual, moral, and intellectual development.

Copy of subject road map to go in here

Year 7

The Year 7 curriculum will start by looking at how stories told in the Bible continue to influence how modern Catholics live their lives today, guiding how they choose to live and interact with others in the world around them. Students will look at how Catholic theology and beliefs about the person of Jesus influences religious practice, as well as how it has inspired artists to try and express and communicate feelings about God to others. As well as learning about the meaning of these stories and teachings, students will be encouraged to reflect on how they fit with their own beliefs and values and explore ways in which they can put their faith into action through the key principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Students will also have the opportunity to study a world faith (Hinduism) and how these beliefs shape rituals and practices.

Year 8

The Year 8 curriculum revisits all the themes which were studied in Year 7, starting with Creation and Covenant. In this year, students will consider some of the existential questions that lie at the heart of the human condition and reflect on both the meaning of suffering and the meaning of death. Students will understand the Catholic belief of how evil and suffering entered the world through Original Sin and the implications of this on each person. This leads into an examination of how God has dealt with the sin and faithfulness of humanity by holding out the promises made of a new covenant as expressed in the prophecies and fulfilled through the life and works of Jesus. When exploring the mystery of evil and suffering, Jesus' life and ministry helps humans to understand how to live out the Kingdom of God on earth, shaping their ethical behaviour. Students will also have the opportunity to study a world faith (Islam) and how these beliefs shape rituals and practices.

Year 9

In Year 9, students deepen their understanding of Catholic theology through the study of the person of Jesus Christ, the mission of the Church, and the relationship between faith and contemporary society. Pupils explore key doctrinal teachings, including the Paschal Mystery, the Sacraments, Catholic Social Teaching, and moral decision-making. They engage with questions of human dignity, justice, vocation, and the meaning of discipleship in the modern world, while also developing their knowledge of other religious and non-religious worldviews. Through the study of Scripture, Church teachings, and theological perspectives, students strengthen their ability to analyse sources of wisdom and authority, evaluate different viewpoints, and construct well-reasoned responses to religious, philosophical, and ethical issues. Students will also have the opportunity to study a world faith (Judaism) and how these beliefs shape rituals and practices.

Assessments

Assessment in Key Stage 3 is designed to support and monitor pupils' progress in both knowledge and skills. Formative assessment is embedded throughout lessons through teacher questioning, peer and self-assessment, and targeted feedback that identifies strengths and next steps for improvement. Summative assessments take place once each term and evaluates pupils' understanding of both current and previously taught content, as well as their ability to apply subject-specific skills. Knowledge of key concepts, teachings, and vocabulary is regularly reinforced and assessed through low-stakes quizzes and retrieval activities, ensuring learning is retained over time. Pupils are also encouraged to take an active role in their learning by regularly reviewing and updating Personal Learning Checklists (PLCs), enabling them to monitor their progress and identify areas for further development.

Ways to help my child succeed

Parents and carers can support their child's success in Religious Education by encouraging regular review of key vocabulary and revision materials. Discussing religious, moral, and ethical issues at home, supporting wider reading, and encouraging engagement with current affairs can help deepen understanding and develop critical thinking skills. Regular attendance, active participation in lessons, and completion of all homework tasks will also help pupils to make strong progress in the subject.

Useful websites

[GCSE Religious Studies | Eduqas](#)

Key Stage 4

At KS4, students build on their prior learning, while developing sophisticated analytical and evaluative skills. This enables students to be more questioning in their study of the impact of religious and non-religious belief on the lives of people in the modern world. Students follow Eduqas Religious Studies: Route B

Course description

Eduqas GCSE Religious Studies: Route B

In Year 10 students will study Judaism and Foundational Catholic Theology

Paper 3: Judaism (25%)

Learning in Year 10 builds upon the knowledge of Jewish beliefs and practices introduced in Year 9. The Judaism unit provides students with an understanding of Jewish beliefs, teachings and practices, exploring the nature of God, the role of the Messiah, the significance of covenant, the sanctity of life, free will and beliefs about the afterlife. Students study key sources of authority, including the Torah, Tenakh and Talmud, and examine how these shape Jewish identity and daily living. The course also explores Jewish practices including worship in the synagogue and home, the importance of prayer, Shabbat observance, rites of passage, dietary laws, and mourning. Students investigate the features and functions of the synagogue, the significance of festivals such as Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Pesach and Sukkot, and the diversity of beliefs and practices within Orthodox and Reform Judaism, enabling them to appreciate the role of faith in contemporary Jewish communities in Britain and beyond.

Paper 1: Foundational Catholic Theology (37.5%)

Origins and Meaning: This theme requires students to consider religious and non-religious beliefs about the origins and value of the universe and human life. Topics include creation of the world, scientific theories of creation, the compatibility of science and religion, issues surrounding the sanctity of life and abortion, the Bible as a source of wisdom and authority, religious art, stewardship, CST and inter-faith dialogue. Students are expected to make relevant references to scripture, other sources of authority and contrasting scientific and/or nonreligious worldviews such as those held by Atheists and Humanists.

Good and Evil: This theme requires students to consider philosophical questions concerning the origins and nature of good and evil and different religious answers to the problem of evil and suffering. Topics include the philosophical problem of evil, religious responses to the problem of evil, the Trinity and incarnation, sculptures and statues, the Rosary and pilgrimage. Students are expected to make relevant references to scripture and other sources of authority.

In Year 11 students will study Applied Catholic Theology.

Paper 2: Applied Catholic Theology (37.5%)

Life After Death: This theme requires students to consider religious beliefs about the nature of life and death. Topics include euthanasia and palliative care, beliefs about life and death, the resurrection of Jesus, Catholic funeral rites, the Magisterium, Vatican II and prayer. Students are expected to make relevant references to scripture and other sources of authority.

Sin and Forgiveness: This theme requires students to consider philosophical questions concerning the nature of criminality and the rationale for punishment. Through a study of teachings and beliefs, questions relating to the justifiability of capital punishment will be explored. Topics also include Catholic teachings about salvation, the sacraments, and evangelisation. Students are expected to make relevant references to scripture and other sources of authority.

Exam board

Eduqas Route B

Past papers

<https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/qualification-resources.html?subject=ReligiousStudies&level=GCSE&pastpaper=true>

Assessments

In Years 10 and 11, pupils are assessed regularly through end-of-unit assessments and GCSE-style examination questions. Students complete one mock examination in Year 10 and two mock examinations in Year 11 to monitor progress and prepare them for their final examinations. Knowledge of key concepts, teachings, and vocabulary are continually reinforced and assessed through low-stakes quizzes, retrieval activities, and homework tasks, helping pupils to secure and retain essential knowledge over time.

Ways to help my child succeed

Support your child by encouraging regular independent revision at home. Effective strategies include utilising knowledge organisers, creating and using flashcards, completing past exam

papers, and regularly reviewing and updating Personal Learning Checklists (PLCs) to track progress and identify areas for improvement. Providing a quiet, distraction-free environment for study will help pupils to focus and revise effectively. Students should also make regular use of the Eduqas Revision Guide, which provides comprehensive support for all three GCSE examination papers (My Revision Notes: WJEC Eduqas GCSE Religious Studies, Route B by Andrew Barron. ISBN: 1510418350)

Useful links

[Eduqas Digital Educational Resources](#)

[PowerPoint Presentation](#)