



Religious Studies

at Emanuel



Introduction to RS

The Religious Studies (RS) department at Emanuel School aims to encourage in all pupils a curiosity about the world of religious thinking, belief, and practice, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to explain, understand and evaluate it. RS also aims to help students to think philosophically and ethically about the world, to seek meaning in life and consider their role within it. Although Emanuel is a Christian foundation, RS is taught in a non-confessional way as an academic subject. A variety of religious traditions are covered within the curriculum and students are encouraged to keep an open-minded attitude to the diversity of belief and practice in the world. This said, we endeavour to make sure there is some study of Christianity as part of our duty to impart fundamental British values and in keeping with the foundation of the school.

There are currently two dedicated RS classrooms in the centre of the school. There will be a shared RS office near the classrooms and close to the chaplain's office to facilitate effective teamwork.

The current head of the department is also the assistant chaplain at Emanuel and will relinquish his duties as head of department in September 2020 in order to become the school chaplain. From September 2020 the department will consist of three teachers, the head of department, the chaplain on a reduced timetable and a main-scale teacher on a full RS timetable.

Curriculum and Teaching

The study of RS is considered to be an essential element for a full education at Emanuel. It is a vast subject covering language, history, belief and the practical influence belief has on everyday life. Religion has exerted a great influence on our culture and world history.

Lower School Curriculum

Learning at KS2 & 3 aims to develop three main skills in our pupils:

- **Evaluation:** The ability to think about beliefs, practices, philosophical and moral questions and articulate their views in discussion
 - **Reading:** The ability to read, comprehend, digest and summarise a variety of texts about theology, religion, ethics and philosophy. This includes the challenge of reading for extended periods of time and using texts written for older readers.
 - **Writing:** The ability to write well considered evaluative essays which demonstrate analytical thinking. All assessment is by evaluative essay writing and we expect that by the end of Year 8 most pupils are writing essays which are of GCSE standard.
- We employ a variety of methods to facilitate this high-level learning and ensure that students enjoy lessons and find them challenging.
- In line with current practice in the maintained sector, our syllabus, whilst considering other important religions represented in Britain, gives most prominence to Christianity.
- **Year 6** focus on belief and faith in practice, prejudice, poverty, war and peace, evil and suffering and the environment (all six world religions are considered, but two are studied in detail). There also is a discreet study of Hinduism and the current Head of Department has established a visit to The ISKON centre in Watford.
 - **Year 7** study three distinct courses: Who am I? Who are the Jews? Who are the Christians? The first focuses on the nature of human beings including beliefs about the soul, sanctity of life and the differences between humans and animals. The other two give a basic introduction to the beliefs and practices of Judaism and Christianity.
 - **Year 8** begins with a module on science and religion, followed by a module on Islam in the world and completes the year by reading St Mark's Gospel
 - **Year 9** studies Religion and Morality (focusing on Christianity but bringing in various other religious approaches). The year ends with a short study of Buddhism. This marks the end of compulsory RS in school, after which it is a choice at GCSE level.





GCSE

Years 10 and 11 follow the AQA GCSE full course, Specification A. Currently Year 10 focus on Christianity and Buddhism, which they began this year, and Year 11 study Christianity and Islam. So there is scope to study either religion as a second religion.

There are two sets studying in Year 10 and one set in Year 11.

A level

Lower and Upper Sixth study the OCR A level specification: Component Paper 1: Philosophy of Religion, Paper 2: Religious Ethics, and Paper 3: Developments in Christian Thought.

There are good-sized sets in both the Lower and Upper Sixth.