

# Head of Religious Studies

## Summerhill School

Thank you for your interest in joining our school and leading the Religious Studies department.

Visits to the school are always welcome. Please contact Miss K Stone, Headteacher's PA on 01384 816165 or via email at [kstone@summerhill.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:kstone@summerhill.dudley.sch.uk)

### Departmental Context

This vacancy arises as a result of the current post-holder gaining a promotion: it offers a chance to take an already strong department with a good reputation and develop it further. As an indication of the current positivity around RS at Summerhill, the numbers of students opting for RS have been growing over a number of years:

Cohort	Number of students
Summer 2017	14
Summer 2018	29
Summer 2019 (current Y11)	36
Summer 2020 (current Y10)	43
Summer 2021 (current Y9)	68



## Wider School Context

Summerhill School was historically recognised as the best secondary school in the local area. In 2016, the school was judged by Ofsted to require improvement and endured a turbulent period of time. Since then, the school has been transformed, our results have improved and we are delighted that in April 2019 we received a Good judgement following inspection.

We're not complacent and we know that further efforts will be needed to ensure that we are consistently excellent in everything we do, but Summerhill is now a very positive place to work and we are definitely a school on an upward trajectory. Our Progress 8 score is already positive and we are hopeful that it will rise further this year.

*Pupils currently at the school make good progress across year groups and in the different subjects.*

The school is located on the western edge of the West Midlands conurbation, in an area with desirable housing and easy access to the countryside. As a result, our students are largely from homes with above average incomes and we have a lower than typical proportion of Pupil Premium students, though we still have students who need support in a wide range of ways. The school was rebuilt completely under a PFI agreement in 2003 and we benefit from a modern, well-maintained building.





The House system plays a big part in the life of our school. Every student, parent and member of staff is a member of a House. Our tutor groups are vertical, featuring students from Y7-Y11 from the same House. Inter-House competitions are fiercely competitive but also friendly!

*..the house system is used to promote a wide range of personal qualities, such as self-confidence and leadership skills.*



We have very high expectations of student behaviour and parents are typically very supportive. There is a lovely community feel to the school.

*Pupils dress smartly and wear the relatively new school uniform with pride. Pupils value learning and have good attitudes to their studies.*

## Department Facilities

As with all areas of Summerhill School, the RS department benefits from modern, well-equipped teaching rooms. The Head of Department is based in the main RS teaching room, which is located on the Humanities corridor alongside Geography and History. Together, the Humanities team share a staff resource base.





## Staffing

The RS department is one of the smaller departments in school – but is growing due to the demand for options places! The majority of the teaching is by the Head of Department. In addition, we have an Assistant Headteacher (Head of House) who is a Religious Studies specialist and contributes some teaching to the department. A small number of periods in Y7 / Y8 are taught by a non-specialist teacher with an interest in the subject.

The Head of RS will be supported and managed directly by a member of SLT. We do not operate a faculty system so there is no Head of Humanities.



*Behaviour is good.  
Pupils are polite, well mannered and courteous*

# Curriculum

In Y7, all students study RS for 1 period (50 minutes) per week. They are taught in mixed ability groups with an average size of 30.

In Y8, all students study RS for 1 period (50 minutes) per week. They are taught in mixed ability groups with an average size of 30.

At the end of Y8, students undertake mini-options. Those students who opt for RS in Y9 have 1 double period (100 minutes) per week. They are taught in mixed-ability option groups. We currently have 89 students studying RS in Y9 (3 groups) and 115 of our Y8 students have indicated that they intend to study RS next year (4 groups).

At the end of Y9, students make their final options choices. Those students who opt for GCSE RS in Y10 and Y11 have 1 double and 1 single period (150 minutes in total) per week. They are taught in mixed-ability option groups. We currently have 43 students studying RS in Y10 (2 groups) and 36 students studying RS in Y11 (2 groups). 68 of our Y9 students have indicated that they intend to study GCSE RS next year.

Year	Key Features	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
7	All students: 1 period per week	<b>Believing in God:</b> Introduction What is God Atheism Monotheism Tolerance	<b>Major World Religions:</b> Timeline People Objects Celebration Places Clothes	<b>Creation:</b> Genesis Evolution God & Science Humanism Maori Teleological	<b>Leadership:</b> Abraham Moses St Paul Khalsa Martin Luther	<b>Festivals:</b> Easter Wesak  Bar Mitzvah  Holi Id ul-Fitr	<b>Charity:</b> Organisations Project Presentations
8	All students: 1 period per week	<b>Art:</b> Introduction Music Paintings Geometry Henna Stained Glass	<b>Buddhism:</b> Story 4 Noble Truths 8 Fold Path Vehicles Enlightenment Theravada Mahayana	<b>Holocaust:</b> Olympics Treaty of Versailles Ghettos Final Solution Remembrance	<b>Prejudice &amp; Discrimination:</b> Good Samaritan Martin Luther King Ghandi Malcolm X	<b>Choices:</b> Holy Books Role Model Absolute and Relative morality Utilitarianism Forgiveness	<b>Animal Rights:</b> Organisations Project Presentations
9	Optional: 1 double period per week	<b>Authority:</b> Commandments Pope Shariah Law	<b>Medical Ethics:</b> Right to life Life support Cloning Organ Donation Fertility treatment	<b>Good &amp; Evil:</b> Classic theism Suffering Inconsistent triad Problem of Evil Free will Original sin	<b>Life after Death:</b> Heaven Hell Reincarnation Judgement Barra boy	<b>War:</b> Causes Effects Sudan Holy War Red Cross	<b>Islam:</b> Allah Qur'an Prophets 5 Pillars
10 GCSE	Optional  3 periods per week  GCSE Religious Studies (Edexcel 1RBO)	<b>Key beliefs Islam:</b> 6 beliefs 5 roots Allah, Prophets Holy Books Angels Life after death	<b>Living the Muslim Life:</b> Shahadah Salah, Zakah Sawm , Hajj Jihad Celebrations	<b>Crime &amp; Punishment:</b> Justice Good & evil Punishment Criminals Forgiveness Death pen	<b>Peace &amp; Conflict:</b> Peacekeeping Conflict Pacifism Just War Holy War WMD Terrorism	<b>End of Unit 1:</b> Islam Revision End of year exam WEX	<b>Key Beliefs Christianity:</b> God Trinity Creation Incarnation Salvation Evil and Suffering
11 GCSE	Optional  3 periods per week  GCSE Religious Studies (Edexcel 1RBO)	<b>Key beliefs Islam:</b> 6 beliefs 5 roots Allah Prophets Holy Books Angels Life after death	<b>Living the Muslim Life:</b> Shahadah Salah Zakah Sawm Hajj Jihad Celebrations	<b>Crime &amp; Punishment:</b> Justice Good & evil Punishment  Criminals Forgiveness  Death pen	<b>Peace &amp; Conflict:</b> Peace Peacekeeping Conflict Pacifism Just War Holy War WMD Terrorism		



All students in Y9, Y10 and Y11 meet their core entitlement to Religious Education through sessions as part of our Global Learning programme. This is a high-profile lesson taught by selected members of staff. As part of this programme, Year 10 will spend a day visiting a number of places of worship later this term.

The Global Learning programme includes considerable work on respect, stereotypes, discrimination, remembrance and the Holocaust. For example, we have a Holocaust survivor speaking to students during Global Learning on 21<sup>st</sup> May.

*Leaders and governors ensure that the curriculum effectively promotes pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) as well as their personal development*



## Extra-Curricular Activities

The department has organised a number of debating activities, including entries to debating competitions. A team of Y10 students won the Dudley Schools' Debate. Our Christian Union is well-attended by a diverse range of students, supported by a volunteer from a local church. The department also offers a comprehensive range of extra revision sessions for examination groups.

*The range of educational visits and trips...and programme of extra-curricular activities, makes a strong contribution to pupils' SMSC awareness and personal development*

## Departmental Results

The RS department has achieved strong results for a number of years, consistently slightly above the school average.

Year	Number of students	Results
2017	14	86% A*-C
2018	29	79% grade 5+, 79% grade 4+
2019 (predictions)	36	75% grade 5+, 94% grade 4+

