



Belief & Ethics

Belief and Ethics is an exciting and engaging subject which allows young people to explore religion and ethical issues and express their own opinions. Here you will take part in debate and moral dilemmas, whilst developing skills to approach issues in a mindful and respectful manner. You will learn to be critical thinkers, whilst exploring various faiths, cultures and laws all of which impact society today.

What will I learn about?

You will study Christianity and Islam, including the origins of their beliefs, the afterlife and how they are practiced in modern society. These religions are then applied to four thematic topics, whereby religious and non-religious views are explored.

Religion and Life: Expanding on our studies in year 9, you will continue to explore medical, environmental and animal ethics. Here we will discuss issues surrounding life and death, including abortion, euthanasia and end of life care. We also study scientific and religious discrepancies, including arguments on how the world began, issues surrounding the environment, eating meat and animal testing.

Peace and Conflict: Students will explore the religious arguments for war, including modern examples of war, holy wars and terrorism. We will also study cases of those who oppose wars, including the work of pacifists and conscientious objectors. Students will develop an understanding on methods of warfare, nuclear war, nuclear disarmament and the challenges this poses in society today.

Marriage and the Family: Students will explore religious and non-religious responses to marriage, divorce, same-sex relationships and gender equality. You will also consider varied responses to contraception, sex outside of marriage and roles within the family.

Crime and Punishment: Here we will study varied attitudes to the treatment of criminals and big questions surrounding why people commit crime, whether evil exists, the causes of crime and attitudes to breaking unjust laws. You will also debate how offenders should be punished, including the use of corporal punishment, prison and the death penalty.

How is the subject taught?

The subject is taught over six hours per fortnight by subject specialists.

How am I assessed?

Students will sit two 1-hour 45-minute exams in Year 11. Here you will be assessed by a set structure of short and extended questions.

How will it help me in the future?

Belief and Ethics is relevant to a number of careers, including public services, healthcare, politics, social-work, teaching, journalism, etc. You will also gain subject knowledge and transferable skills which are excellent for a range of jobs, including critical thinking, leadership, problem solving and creativity. Belief and Ethics encourages tolerance and open mindedness which really stands out in the world of employment.

Who can I speak to for more information?

For further information about Belief and Ethics please speak to Mrs Needham, Curriculum Area Leader of RCS or contact options@penistone-gs.uk.

