

Long Term Plan – Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (2026-27)

Vision: Our vision for our students is for them to become not just tolerant, but appreciative of the variety of values, beliefs and practices that exist in Britain’s pluralistic society. This will involve challenging misconceptions and stereotypes that exist in the community and extending their knowledge and understanding of the major world faiths and atheism. We are passionate about them being aware of modern-day issues and events and aim for them to be able to make meaningful contributions to relevant debates. We will also use our subject as a vessel to promote and improved literacy. Collectively these aims will allow our students to leave New Mills School as well-informed, open-minded and considerate individuals.							Year End Points
	HT1	HT2	HT3	HT4	HT5	HT6	
Year 7	What is Faith?	Abraham: What is the significance of covenants for Jews, Christians and Muslims?		Who was Jesus?		Introduction to Islam	By the end of Year 7, students will be able to distinguish between knowledge and belief and demonstrate an understanding of a range of worldviews, including atheism, theism, and agnosticism. They will understand the origins of the Abrahamic religions and their foundations within the prophetic tradition of Judaism. Students will also explore how Christianity and Islam developed and spread through the influence and teachings of Jesus and Muhammad. In addition, students will be able to identify and interpret statements, respond to them by presenting simple arguments both for and against, and explain and justify their own views using appropriate reasons.
Year 8	Introduction to Hinduism		Introduction to Christianity		Can you believe in Science and Religion?	Introduction to Sikhism	By the end of Year 8, students will understand the central beliefs of Hinduism, including one supreme spirit expressed through many deities, karma, reincarnation, samsara, and moksha. They will also understand key Hindu concepts, particularly sacrifice and atonement. Students will understand the basic beliefs and practices of Sikhism and the importance of equality within the faith. In their written work, students will develop points using examples and paraphrasing. They will be able to embed quotations and use evidence to justify and support their answers.
Year 9	Introduction to Buddhism		Is religion dangerous?		Making Moral Decisions		By the end of Year 9, students will have developed an understanding of the beliefs and practices of five of the six major world religions. They will be able to explore and evaluate the relationship between religion and science, considering whether religious believers can accept both religious and scientific explanations of the world. Students will also analyse differing perspectives on the impact of religion on society, evaluating arguments that religion can have both positive and negative effects. In addition, students will examine religious and non-religious approaches to ethical decision-making and apply these frameworks to a range of contemporary moral issues. Students will be able to construct logical chains of reasoning, evaluate different viewpoints and evidence, and reach justified conclusions based on balanced consideration of arguments.