

Introduction

At St. Joseph Catholic High School all students study Religious Education as a core subject. Throughout their studies, students are challenged to evaluate their own faith, attitudes, behaviour, opinions and values. Students of all or no religious background are invited to learn about Christ, his teachings and his Church and share their own faith and life experiences within our Catholic faith community. All students are invited to develop their personal relationship with Christ who stands in the centre of all we do and who we are. Jesus Christ wants us to share in his perfection and that is what we want for each of our students. We want them to be as perfect as possible in each area of their lives. That is why RE teachers help pupils to develop academically, spiritually, socially, emotionally and morally.

Topics covered in each year group

Year 7

The underlining theme for Year 7 students is 'faith' and the opportunity to meet Christ who is the one who gives meaning to our lives and is the source of all happiness.

Autumn Term topics

- The Search for Meaning, Sources of Meaning, The World Religions as the Sources of Meaning; God (The Holy Trinity) as the Source of Meaning and the Holy Scripture.
- Faith as a Response to God: Stages of Faith, Prayer as a Sign of Faith, Collective Worship as a Sign of Faith and sacraments.

Spring Term Topics

- The Liturgical Year as a Sign of Faith (Advent, Christmas and Lent)
- The Liturgical Year as a Sign of Faith (Holy Week and Triduum)

Summer Term Topics

- The Liturgical Year as a Sign of Faith (Easter, Ascension and Pentecost)
- Places of Worship and Pilgrimage as a Sign of Faith, Moral Life as a Sign of Faith

Year 8

The underlining theme for Year 8 students is the 'History of Salvation'.

Autumn Term Topics

- Prehistory: Creation, Original Sin and the promise of the Messiah
- Judaism: Location, Culture and Patriarchs
- Judaism: Moses and the Torah
- Judaism: Beliefs, practice, worship and festivals

Spring Term Topics

- Judaism at the time of Jesus (Holy Land, Roman Empire, Life in Palestine, the Expectations for the Messiah)
- Jesus – the expected Messiah and the Saviour, the Beginning of the New Testament, Gospels and History Documents, teachings of Jesus (Parables)

Summer Term Topics

- Miracles and Jesus' first disciples
- The Church and Salvation, the Magisterium, Councils, Religious Orders and Clergy
- The Mission of the Church: Evangelism and the Social Teachings of the Church
- The Church and other religions: Islam

Year 9

Students study a Philosophy unit which allows them to develop philosophical vocabulary needed for theological units. This unit is followed by a study of Judaism which will lay down historical and doctrinal foundations for Catholic Theology. Due to possible school closures, the topics listed below (Y9, Y10 and Y11) might be taught in a different order.

Autumn Term Topics

- Arguments for the existence of God (Revelation, Visions, Miracles, Religious Experiences, The Design and Cosmological arguments, The Existence of Suffering and the Solutions to the Problem of Suffering)

Spring Term Topics

- Religious Teachings on Relationships and Families in the 21st Century (Marriage, Sexual relationships, The Family, Support for the Family, Family Planning, Divorce, Annulment, Equality of Men and Women, Gender Prejudice and Discrimination)

Summer Term Topics

Judaism (The Almighty, The Shekhinah, The Messiah, The Covenant at Sinai, The Covenant with Abraham, The Sanctity of Life, Moral Principles and Mitzvot and Life after Death)

Year 10

Autumn Term Topics (and the first part of the Spring Term)

- Judaism (Public Acts of Worship, The Tenakh and Talmud, Private and Public Prayer, The Shema and the Amidah, Ritual and Ceremony, Shabbat, Festivals and Synagogue)
- Catholic Christianity (The Trinity, The Trinity and the Bible, Creation, Creation and the Nature of Humanity, The Incarnation, The Paschal Mystery, Eschatology)

Spring Term Topics (Starting at the second half of this term)

- Catholic Christianity (The Sacramental Nature of Reality, Liturgical Worship, The Funeral Rite, Prayer, Popular Piety, Pilgrimage, Catholic Social Teaching, Evangelism)

Summer Term Topics

- Catholic Christianity (The Bible, Interpretation of the Bible, The Magisterium, The Second Vatican Council, The Church as the Body of Christ, The Four Marks of the Church, Mary, Ethical Decisions)

Year 11

Autumn Term Topics

- Catholic Christianity (Architecture, Sacred Objects, Artwork, Sculptures and Statues, Symbolism, Drama and Music)
- Final Revision (Catholic Christianity Topics)

Spring Term Topics

- Final Revision (Catholic Christianity Topics)
- Catholic Christianity Mock
- Final Revision (Judaism)

Summer Term Topics

- Final Revision (Philosophy)
- Exams

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