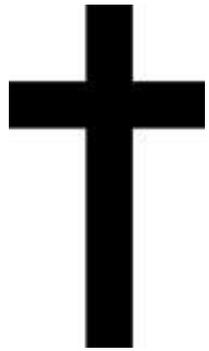


Welcome to the RE Department 2020-21



Welcome to the RE department

Religious studies at Gayne is about teaching tolerance and understanding. It's about preparing students and giving them the skill to flourish as able and qualified participants of a multi-cultural, multi-faith society.

Religious education makes a distinctive contribution to the school curriculum by developing pupils' knowledge and understanding of religion, religious beliefs, practices, language and traditions and their influence on individuals, communities, societies and cultures.

It enables pupils to consider and respond to a range of important questions related to their own spiritual development, the development of values and attitudes and fundamental questions concerning the meaning and purpose of life. The RE department at Gaynes are a successful and dedicated team who are committed to the students enjoyment and development in religious studies.

Welcome to the RE department

At KS3 pupils study a variety of different topics. We aim to create an inclusive environment so we aim to study the majority of the major world religions over years 7 and 8 with an open and broad perspective. In year 7 we build on pupils prior knowledge and study world religions as a foundation for their study in year 8 and beyond.

In year 7 we study the following:

- Bridging unit
- Christianity
- Hinduism
- Judaism
- Citizenship
- Major religious festivals

In year 8 we take a thematic approach, looking at topics from the perspective of different religions:

- Inspirational figures
- Rites of passage
- Religion and art
- Evil and suffering
- Citizenship

From Yr 9 onwards students study and work towards their GCSE in RE. We follow the Eduqas examination syllabus and students study the following 3 papers: Philosophy and Ethics, Christianity and Islam. In the Christianity and Islamic papers students study the beliefs and teachings of each faith whilst within the Philosophy and Ethics paper students study different philosophical, moral and ethical issues such as life after death, how to treat the environment, the creation of life and the different Christian, Muslim and non-religious views and responses to them.

Student Work:

RE HOMEWORK – 8 MARK QUESTIONS

USING TWO RELIGIONS OR RELIGIOUS POINTS OF VIEW, EXPLAIN TEACHINGS ON ABORTION. (8)

From a Catholic Christian point of view on abortion is that it is forbidden. This belief could be because of the Bible quote, *"Thou shalt not kill."* (Exodus 20:13) This is one of the Ten Commandments and so it is expected from God that every Christian abides by the laws. This view rejects abortion because it is classed as murder. Because of the Sanctity of Life, it would also be unlawful to get an abortion, since every life is precious and sacred. Therefore, from this teaching of the Sanctity of Life, abortion would be rejected.

However from another Christian view, the general view is that abortion is wrong, however it should be allowed in certain circumstances. For example, if the mother's life is in danger, or if the quality of life for the baby will not be good. It would also be believed that life is a gift from God and should therefore be protected.

Muslims believe that God creates life and only he can end it (sanctity of life). Abortion for purely economic reasons is forbidden in the Qur'an: *'Do not kill your children out of poverty; we will provide for you and them.'* Qur'an 6:151. While many Muslims believe that abortion is wrong and haram (forbidden) some also accept that there are situations in which an abortion can be permitted. Many will allow abortion if the mother's life is in danger or if the child is likely to be seriously deformed or diseased.

WHY IS BAPTISM IMPORTANT FOR CHRISTIANS?

Baptism is thought of as the first sacrament, acting as a 'covenant' or agreement between human beings and God. Christians believe very strongly in the importance of Baptism and there are a number of important references to it in the Bible. In Romans 6:4 it says, *'We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.'* For a Christian to be 'born again' they need to undergo the process of Baptism.

Baptism is also important for Christians as it is regarded as a sign of the gift of the Holy Spirit. The baptised Christian becomes united with Christ, including in his death and resurrection. Through being baptised they are able to enter heaven and live eternally with God after death, as this quote from John shows: *"Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."* So in order to make it to heaven and see the 'kingdom of God', Christians need to be baptised.

Student Work:

by the fact that the galaxies are moving away which happens in the result of an explosion so this is one way that scientist have been able to find some sort of evidence of the big bang. So, this shows that life has come about by itself.

However, from a religious point of view the Christian creation story as given in the book of Genesis shows the order in which the world was created, the order which is described in the bible is shown by days where the first daylight was created, then the second day the sky was created, then the third-day dry land, seas, plants, and trees were created, then the fourth day the Sun, Moon, and stars were created, then the fifth-day creatures that live in the sea and creatures that fly were created, then the sixth-day animals that live on the land and finally humans, made in the image of God were created. So, from a Christian point of view the world would have been created by God.

One way to prove the Christian point of view is shown by William Paley's watchmaker theory, this theory says that a watch is too complex to just come into existence out of nothing. This is a metaphor for the big bang and the fact that the earth is too complex to appear after the big bang and it needed someone to design the world and the people, so this is William Paley's method of proving that God is the one who made the universe.

However, one counterargument to this is the evolution theory by Charles Darwin, this theory goes through natural selection and shows that the strong survive and the weak die, so this theory states that once something has bred and it has had a positive change then that change will survive and the old version will eventually die out and this keeps on happening and the species gets more advanced and better over time. So this is a counter-argument to the watchmaker theory because it shows that something complicated can be created from something simple.

One way to support this from a religious point of view is from Islam where the Quran only says that everything that happens is God's will, so the big bang theory is supported by the Quran as this could be said as Allah's method of creating the universe and it was his will that made it happen so this is another way it could be interpreted in the Quran and it could show that Islam does support these theories.

The Bible could also be interpreted in another way for example if you interpret the days as a lot more time then you could fit the big bang theory into the biblical creation story so this shows that there are many ways the big bang could fit into the creation story with all of the theories that show it was something else being disproved by another method or having an argument against them. Indeed, in Islam it does not say that the world was created in seven days, instead says that there were seven eras of time. Muslims believe that the Old Testament books such as Genesis are a source of authority which, over time, became distorted and needed to be corrected when the Angel Jibril dictated the word of Allah to Mohammed. This would support the belief that the "days" mentioned in Genesis are indeed meant to symbolise eras of time.

So, in conclusion, this shows that life has come about by itself. This is because there is a large number of theories that

Have a go!

How many religious artefacts can you identify and name?

OR click on the links below to take the quiz and see how much you know about the different religions!

- ❑ Islam: http://www.rsrevision.com/games/islam_wp.html
- ❑ Judaism: <http://www.rsrevision.com/games/judaism/judaism.html>
- ❑ Rites of Passage: http://www.rsrevision.com/games/rites_of_passage.html
- ❑ Sikhism: <https://www.educationquizzes.com/ks3/religious-education/sikhism-01/>
- ❑ Christianity: <https://www.educationquizzes.com/ks3/religious-education/christianity-02/>
- ❑ Buddhism: <https://www.educationquizzes.com/ks3/religious-education/buddhism-01/>