

RS

YEAR 8

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| Lesson(s) per week | 1 (for 1.5 terms) |
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| Homework per week | 1 |
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Staff to contact: Anna Wrigley

Course content/description

Unit 1 – Peace and Conflict (Theology)

In this unit, students explore the role of religion in conflict situations and consider how far religion is responsible for conflict and how far it is a promoter of peace. Students explore a variety of concepts including pacifism, ahimsa (non-violence), Just War and Jihad. Students learn about famous pacifists such as Gandhi and Martin Luther King and discuss contemporary case studies, including Northern Ireland and Islamic State.

Unit 2 – Ethics (Philosophy)

In this unit, students come face-to-face with fundamental questions about right and wrong. Students are introduced to the study of morality and learn about ethical theories such as utilitarianism, deontology and virtue ethics.

Assessment

Students are assessed through the course in a variety of ways but the main assessment for Y8 consists of an extended essay on the question: "Is religion a source of peace or conflict?" Students are provided with an essay structure sheet and expected to write the essay under timed conditions.

Books/other/materials/visits

After a successful trip to Neasden Temple with Y7 students, the Department is currently exploring opportunities for trips and external speakers for Y8 students.

Students take part in at least one P4C session (Philosophy 4 Children).

What help can be given at home?

Talk with students about what they are learning in class about theology and philosophy. Encourage students to formulate and justify their own opinions. Help students keep up-to-date with current affairs and religion in the news.