

Subject: Religious Studies		Year Group: Year 8
Term 1 Key Focus/Topic(s) The Nature of God & Christian Foundations: Exploring arguments for God's existence and the "numinous". Study of the Trinity, the historical and ethical context of the Bible, and the significance of the Creed.	Term 2 Key Focus/Topic(s) The Paschal Mystery: Analysis of the Crucifixion and Resurrection through film and text. Introduction to Hindu core beliefs	Term 3 Key Focus/Topic(s) Hindu Practice & Global Hinduism Introduction to Hindu core beliefs (Brahman, Soul, Karma) and the ethics of the Caste system.
Term 1 Assessment Opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflection on reasons for belief and religious experience. • Interpreting symbolism in the Trinity. • Analysis of Biblical story and ethical application 	Term 2 Assessment Opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluating faith vs. doubt regarding the Resurrection • Cinematic representations of the crucifixion and resurrection 	Term 3 Assessment Opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applying concepts of Karma to ethical scenarios. • Evaluating justice and discrimination in social structures
Term 4 Key Focus/Topic(s): Hindu Practice: Exploration of Hindu worship (Puja and Mandir), the influence of Gandhi, and the celebration of Diwali.	Term 5 Key Focus/Topic(s) Sikhi Identity & The Khalsa: Focus on the "Five Ks" and the authority of the Guru Granth Sahib. Study of the Gurdwara as a social and spiritual hub	Term 6 Key Focus/Topic(s) Sikhi Ethics & Service: Exploration of Vaisakhi and the concepts of Meeri and Peeri (balance of spiritual/temporal). Analysis of "Sewa" through modern case studies like Sikh Boxing Warriors
Term 4 Assessment Opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of Gandhi's global influence. • Reflecting on inclusivity and the development of faith. 	Term 5 Assessment Opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symbolism explanation (The Five Ks). • Evaluation of the importance of the Gurdwara. 	Term 6 Assessment Opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of festival meanings (Vaisakhi). • Evaluation of Sewa (selfless service) and community responsibility

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Rationale:

The Year 8 curriculum continues the **phenomenological approach**, utilizing the seven dimensions of religion (Ritual, Doctrinal, Narrative, Experiential, Ethical, Social, and Material) to explore the diversity of theistic and Dharmic traditions . This year emphasizes the **Experiential and Ethical dimensions**, linking belief to **Wellbeing** through themes like managing uncertainty, mindfulness, and global responsibility. We continue to address **Gatsby Benchmarks** by showcasing careers in human rights, environmentalism, social work, and community leadership.

Evaluation:

This **live document** is evaluated through student engagement with complex theological concepts and their ability to relate ancient narratives (like the Bible or Hindu Holy Books) to modern ethical dilemmas. Success is measured by the development of "perspective-taking" and the ability to evaluate the impact of faith on global and local communities