

KS4 Long Term Curriculum Plan: CORE Year 10 RE 2025-26

Curriculum Aim:

The aim of Core Year 10 Religious Education (non-assessed) is to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and ethical awareness needed to navigate complex moral and philosophical questions in contemporary society. The curriculum is designed to promote critical thinking, empathy, and respectful dialogue by engaging students with real-world issues that are relevant to their lives and futures. Through the study of environmental ethics, the meaning of life, and ethics in the digital age, students are encouraged to consider a range of religious, philosophical, and secular perspectives, developing their ability to analyse, evaluate, and articulate informed viewpoints. By the end of the course, students will have a deeper understanding of ethical responsibility, personal and collective values, and the challenges and opportunities presented by a rapidly changing world.

Link to Prior Learning:

This Year 10 curriculum builds directly on the foundations laid in Key Stage 3 Religious Education, where students explored major world religions, ethical frameworks, and philosophical questions. In Years 7 to 9, students developed skills in analysis, evaluation, and discussion, and began to apply religious and non-religious perspectives to a range of moral and social issues. The Core RE programme in Year 10 extends this learning by focusing on contemporary ethical challenges and personal reflection, encouraging students to draw on their prior understanding of beliefs, practices, and ethical reasoning. This progression ensures that students are prepared for the demands of post-16 study and for thoughtful engagement with the ethical dimensions of adult life.

Rationale of Sequencing:

The sequence of the Year 10 Core RE curriculum is carefully structured to move from global and collective ethical concerns to more personal and contemporary issues. The autumn term begins with environmental ethics, introducing students to concepts such as stewardship, sustainability, and justice, and examining both religious and secular responses to environmental challenges. This unit provides a timely and relevant context for ethical reflection and debate, setting the stage for more personal philosophical enquiry in the spring term. The focus then shifts to the meaning of life, where students consider questions of purpose, suffering, fulfilment, and morality from a variety of perspectives, encouraging deeper self-reflection and understanding of others. In the summer term, the curriculum addresses ethics in the digital age, challenging students to apply their ethical reasoning to new dilemmas arising from technological change, such as digital identity, justice, and online community. This progression from environmental responsibility, through existential reflection, to digital ethics ensures that students develop a broad, relevant, and coherent understanding of ethics and belief, preparing them for the complexities of modern life and citizenship.

Y10 Long Term Plan

Term	Half Term	Unit	Lessons	Vocabulary
Autumn 13 weeks	Autumn 1 8 weeks	Environmental Ethics (7 lessons)	1. Introduction to Environmental Ethics	Environmental Ethics Anthropocentrism Ecocentrism Biocentrism Stewardship Intrinsic Value Sustainability Intergenerational Justice Animal Rights Gaia Theory
			2. Religious and Humanist Views	
			3. Animal Rights and Ethics	
	Autumn 2 7 weeks		4. Gaia Theory and Philosophy	
			5. Climate Change and Justice	
			6. Environmental Justice	
			7. The Value of Nature	
			1. What is Life's Meaning?	

Spring 11 weeks	Spring 1 6 weeks	The Meaning of Life (6 lessons)	1. What is Life's meaning?	Purpose Value Morality Free will Ethics Conscience Fulfillment Happiness Altruism Identity
	Spring 2 6 weeks		2. Why Do We Suffer?	
			3. What Makes Us Human?	
			4. Where Do We Find Belonging?	
			5. Can We Be Good Without Religion?	
			6. Is Happiness Life's Goal?	
Summer 13 weeks	Summer 1 6 weeks	Ethics in the Digital Age (6 lessons)	1. Human Dignity Online: Are We More Than Data?	Digital ethics Human dignity Stewardship Virtue Vice Justice Equality Compassion Identity Community
	Summer 2 7 weeks		2. Virtue and Vice: Digital Actions and Moral Character	
			3. Technology and Stewardship: Are We Responsible for Digital Creation?	
			4. Justice and Equality: Faith Responses to AI and Algorithms	
			5. Compassion or Harm? Religion and Online Communication	
			6. Community, Identity, and Belief in a Digital World	