

Raising aspirations – RE

At Ormiston Bushfield Academy, Religious Education is about raising aspirations and helping students understand the diverse beliefs and values that shape our world. Through RE, students develop critical thinking, empathy, and ethical reasoning—skills that are essential for life and highly valued in careers such as law, healthcare, education, and public service. It encourages respect, open-mindedness, and the ability to engage thoughtfully with complex issues. Understanding different perspectives prepares students to thrive in a global society and make informed, responsible decisions.

Religious Education helps students explore big questions about life, beliefs, and values, fostering curiosity and understanding. It builds vital skills such as critical thinking, communication, and ethical decision-making—skills that employers value in every profession. RE encourages respect for diversity and equips students to navigate an increasingly interconnected world. By studying RE, students gain the confidence and insight to make informed choices and contribute positively to society.

Suggested Reading list

KS3 (years 7-9)

The Theory of Everything by Stephen Hawking – A series of lectures about what we think is the history of the Universe. Find out about the Big Bang and black holes.

How did it all start? by Biku Ghosh – Forty-eight creation stories answering and raising questions, debates and with lots of analysis.

Humanism by Michael Rosen & Annemarie Young – A scientific approach to the world in which we live, looking to reject the idea of the supernatural. It looks to respond to fundamental questions

The Little Book of Philosophy: An Introduction to the Key Thinkers and Theories You Need to Know

The Little Book of Humanism: Michael Rosen & AnneMarie Young.

Natives, Race Class and Empire: Akala

Philosophy and Ethics (KS3 Knowing Religion) by Robert Orme

The God Delusion: Richard Dawkins

A very short introduction: Aristotle, Plato, Socrates: Richard Barnes/‘Aristotle and the curious boy.’

The Door Within: Wayne Thomas Baston: Fantasy Christian fiction about good and evil within a Medieval Kingdom.

The Chronicles of Narnia: C.S.Lewis: Christian fiction, it combines thrilling adventure with Christian allegories.

KS4 (years 10-11)

Religious Studies A: Christianity and Islam Revision Guide: Oxford Press, pure revision of topics

Just War Theory : Mark Evans addresses the criticisms of war. Why do wars take place?

The Hiding place: Corrie Ten Boom, tells the story of a family sheltering Jews during WW2 (also made into a film – based on a true story)

The Railway Man: Eric Lomax: Also made into a film about the consequences of WW2 – based on a true story.

The Pilgrim’s progress: John Bunyan, Christian allegory, Christian is on his journey from the City of Destruction to the Celestial City. Along the way, he encounters various trials and characters that represent different sins and virtues

Saint Maybe: Ann Tyler: The story follows Ian Bedloe, who grapples with guilt and seeks redemption after his careless words lead to tragic consequences for his brother’s family.

Websites

YouTube – [Revisewise GCSE RS Christianity \(years 10/11\)](#)

Oak National Academy [Free, time-saving teacher resources | Oak National Academy](#) - Offers free, easy-to-follow lessons on different religions and worldviews.

TrueTube Visit [Home - TrueTube](#) - Provides short films and lesson plans on ethical, moral, and religious topics—ideal for discussion and critical thinking.

RE:ONLINE Visit [Home - RE:ONLINE](#) - A comprehensive hub for resources on religion and worldviews, including articles, videos, and teaching materials suitable for KS3–KS5.

ReligionFacts Visit [Home](#) - This site provides clear, unbiased information about a wide range of world religions, beliefs, and practices.

Tedtalk Visit [Home](#) – this provides videos about related units/topics

KS3 Religious Education - BBC Bitesize

Pilgrimage with Simon Reeves: bbc.co.uk (series)- or book versions available

Podcasts

The RE Podcast [Listen Here \[therepodcast.co.uk\]](#) - The first dedicated Religious Education podcast for students and teachers. Bite-size weekly episodes on religion, ethics, and philosophy.

Come Study With Me (BYU Religious Education) [Listen Here \[player.fm\]](#) - Explores religious concepts and worldviews in an accessible way, encouraging critical thinking and discussion—great for older students (KS4–KS5).

Branches of Faith [Listen Here \[player.fm\]](#) - Visits different houses of worship and interviews members to explore diverse religious traditions and commonalities—perfect for broadening perspectives.

Crash Course Philosophy- different way to explore some topics to broaden views.