







The SUBJECT Curriculum at Nova is Ambitious, Sequenced Carefully, Principled, Inclusive, Research-informed and Enriching.

 <p>AMBITIOUS</p> <p>At Nova Hreod, the Religious Studies department aims to encourage pupils to relish the complexity of personal faith as well as Religious and non-religious concepts as a whole, this is challenged through big questions which allow students to ask ethical and philosophical questions which they may never face in other subjects, facilitating them in developing their own personal opinions and challenge others on theirs: from why is their suffering to is there a need to prove God's existence?</p>	 <p>SEQUENCED</p> <p>The Religious Studies curriculum at Nova Hreod has been carefully and specifically designed in a very specific sequence which builds on students' knowledge as well as their skills required to be good theologians. In Year 7 we start with knowing the fundamental beliefs and practices which practice on skills such as describe and outline which then builds to explain and evaluate in year 8 and 9 by looking at big concept questions.</p>	 <p>PRINCIPLED</p> <p>The topics and questions which we grapple with in the Religious Studies department are designed to not try to convert or encourage a particular belief, but to question and critically consider religious teachings as well as practices around the world. Our curriculum is designed to encourage critical thinking, allowing pupils to question and develop their own personal opinions. This will allow students to be able to develop their own personal opinions based on knowledge obtained from the curriculum. And in doing so will leave Nova with a more rounded understanding of the world around us</p>	 <p>INCLUSIVE</p> <p>Successful theologians can critically question and understand others' arguments and construct well-reasoned arguments in response. In order to ensure that all of the pupils at Nova Hreod can develop these skills, we regularly read a wide range texts as a whole class, and check pupils' understanding before we move on. We also explicitly teach vocabulary which pupils encounter and which they are expected to use in their writing. Before writing, we carefully model pieces of work in order to give pupils structure and criteria to support them.</p>	 <p>RESEARCH INFORMED</p> <p>Current educational research is at the heart of what we do as a Religious Studies department; research into cognitive load and vocabulary acquisition has informed our approach to reading, Doug Lemov's <i>Teach Like a Champion</i> informs our classroom management, and the principles behind data driven instruction define our approach to standardising, moderating, and giving feedback on Common Interim Assessments and other assessment tasks.</p>	 <p>ENRICHING</p> <p>At Nova Hreod, the Religious Studies department endeavours to demonstrate that studying the subject in the classroom is only the beginning of a pupils' journey within Religious Studies. For each topic, we offer a reading list of both fiction and non-fiction texts. We are also in the process of developing a selection of trips which align topics in each year group, such as trips to Worcestershire Cathedral and Gloucestershire Mosque in Year 10.</p>
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