Year 8: Philosophy

Curriculum Intent: This year students will continue to build on the ideas they have learned last year from philosophy, ethics and religion. This year students will be introduced to the three Dharmic faiths. These topics are taught in chronological order so that they are easier to understand. Students will look at how these eastern traditions have shaped history, religious thought and the behaviour of their followers. The curriculum is also designed to ensure that students understand that there are a variety of differing beliefs within a religion itself, such as the differing beliefs held by Theravada Buddhists in comparison to Mahayana Buddhists. Studying Sikhism after Hinduism and Buddhism will allow them to make links and connections between the three religions. Students should have a good understanding of the key beliefs and teachings within these religions and how these are practised by people today. They should also understand some of the challenges faced by followers of these religions. A study of ethics will introduce students to the ways in which non-religious worldviews deal with decision-making and the big ethical questions as well as comparing them to religious explanations. Students are introduced to the latest Census data (2021) on religious numbers in the UK to discuss arguments for and against the relevance of religion in today's society.



	Term 1		Term 2		Term 3	
Topic Titles (in order of delivery)	1A: Hinduism	1B: Buddhism	2A: Buddhism	2B: Ethics	3A: Sikhism	3B: Sikhism
Key knowledge / Retrieval topics	- Where Hinduism began and how it spread - Hindu beliefs about God - Worship in the home (puja) - Hindu scared texts - Hindu beliefs about samsara, karma and reincarnation - Who Ghandi was and why he is important	- Who the Buddha was and how Buddhism began - The Four Noble Truths - The Three Marks of Existence - Karma - Reincarnation - The Five Moral Precepts	- The Eightfold Path - Why the followers of the Dharma split - The two main schools of Buddhist thought – Theravada and Mahayana - Thich Nhat Hanh and Maha Ghosananda – what they did and why they are inspirational - Wesak - Buddhism in MK - How Buddhism became established in the UK - Buddhist Temples	- Absolute and relative morality - What influences our decision-making - Phillipa Foot's thought experiment - What artificial intelligence is - The Turing test - Arguments for and against artificial intelligence - Arguments for and against sport being the new religion -Arguments for and against whether religion has passed its sell-by-date	- How and why Sikhism began and spread - Guru Nanak - The Ten Gurus and why they are important - Guru Gobind Singh and the creation of the Khalsa	- The Amrit Sanskar ceremony - The 5 Ks and why they are important - The authority of the Guru Granth Sahib - How Sikhs show the Guru Granth Sahib respect - Key features of the Gurdwara - Sikh beliefs about God, life after death and war

Understanding / Sequence of delivery	 Introduction to Hinduism What do Hindus believe about God? How do Hindus worship? What are the Hindu sacred texts? What do Hindus think happens when you die? Why was Ghandi important? 	 The Buddha Dukkha – Four Noble Truths The Three Marks of Existence Karma Rebirth The Five Moral Precepts 	 The Eightfold Path Buddhist Schools Inspirational Leaders How do Buddhists celebrate? Buddhism in the UK 	 What is ethics? What should we do with the runaway train? How ethical is artificial intelligence? Is sport like a religion? Has religion passed its sell-by-date? 	 What is Sikhism? How did Sikhism begin? Who are the Ten Gurus? What is the Khalsa? 	 How do you become a Khalsa Sikh? Why is the Guru Granth Sahib important? What is the Gurdwara? What do Sikhs believe about God? What do Sikhs believe happens after death? What do Sikhs believe about war? 		
Assessment	The students will be assessed according to the Year 8 mastery statements. Each assessment will check their knowledge of the most recent topic studied as well as revisiting content from previous topics, allowing students to build on the knowledge they have already gained. A range of multiple choice, short answer and long answer questions will be used. Guidance and sentence starters are given to help students as they improve on how to answer these questions. Students will be given the time to reflect on their achievements in the assessments and to set targets for further development.							