



ROSSETT SCHOOL

A Specialist Mathematics & Computing College

THE FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

The Faculty comprises of a wide range of disciplines - History, Geography, Religion, Ethics & Philosophy, Sociology and Psychology.

The Faculty ethos is to enable all students to experience a wide range of knowledge and learning strategies so that they develop a broad, balanced and enquiring attitude towards a rapidly changing world. Students are encouraged to develop their talents, moral awareness and learning skills in preparation for their adult lives and to value both their own and others contribution as citizens in society.

History, Geography, and Religion, Ethics & Philosophy are taught to Years 7 and 8 and are offered as GCSE options in Years 9, 10 & 11. Sociology is also offered as a GCSE in years 10 and 11. History, Geography, Psychology, Sociology and Religion, Ethics & Philosophy are taught to AS and A2 Level in the Sixth Form.

Students in Year 7 are taught in mixed ability classes based on their form groups. In Year 8 classes are set into five groups in each half year, this enables group sizes to be as small as staffing allows. Sets are determined by careful teacher consultation on the year's class work together with the available baseline data and teacher tracking results, which are recorded over the year for each of the Social Science subjects. Timetable and staffing restrictions require that all three subjects may be set against each other.

In Years 9, 10 and 11 students who opt for History, Geography or Religion, Ethics & Philosophy are set for the GCSE based on previous work, examination marks, tracking grades and staff consultation. In Years 12 and 13, the number of students taking Social Sciences usually means one group per subject in each year.

The Faculty has a number of purpose built teaching rooms most of which operate within the Junior Block of the school. This enables the staff to support one another, where appropriate, and encourages communication between subject areas. One classroom has an interactive whiteboard available and the area also contains a small suite of network linked computers. ICT classrooms throughout the school provide students and teachers with the opportunity to use the network of PC computers.

The range of subjects taught within the Faculty is wide and some teachers may deliver two or more disciplines. Each subject has a teacher in charge to manage the subject. All subject areas follow School policies re marking and assessment, equal opportunities, examination entries, cross-curricular themes, student monitoring and discipline. Teachers in charge of each subject are responsible for the implementation of School policy within their area. The Director of Studies oversees the management of the Faculty.

Faculty and subject meetings are held on a regular basis. Staff development is encouraged via INSET and is often in line with "Performance Management" targets that have been set.



ROSSETT SCHOOL

A Specialist Mathematics & Computing College

RELIGION, ETHICS & PHILOSOPHY

The broad aims of the Religion, Ethics & Philosophy department are:

- To equip students with the skills needed to become "religiously literate";
- To develop, in students, a sensitivity to, and informed understanding of, the world's major religions;
- To develop students' spiritual growth, self esteem, self knowledge and communication skills with courses of enjoyed exploration and study.

Key Stage 3

In Year 7 and 8 students have one hour per week of Religion, Ethics & Philosophy. In Year 7 our aim is to introduce students to the major world religions. Year 7 students' complete three units, entitled: Beginnings and Beliefs, Ways to Worship and Special Journeys. In Year 8 we build on student's knowledge and broaden their understanding of their own and other people's beliefs and opinions in three further units: The Life of Jesus, Introduction to Philosophy and Introduction to Ethics.

Key Stage 4

From Year 9 students can opt to study Philosophy & Ethics as a GCSE subject. We currently have two classes studying the GCSE over one academic year, in five hours per week. Our classes are a mixture of Years 9, 10 and 11 students. We have found the one year course to be a positive move and results have been excellent. We currently follow the OCR Religious Studies B: Philosophy and Applied Ethics course.

Key Stage 5

Students can opt to study Philosophy and Ethics at AS Level and then progress to A2 as appropriate. We currently follow the OCR Religious Studies: Philosophy and Ethics course.

Homework

Homework is set throughout KS3 and KS4 groups in line with School/Faculty marking and assessment policy.

Cross-Curricular Themes / Links

Where appropriate, the cross-curricular policies of the school are followed. The Environmental, Citizenship and Equal Opportunities themes are part of the study of the ethics and lives within the individual religions studied. When students are researching information, especially on the Christian character, they are encouraged to use the ICT facilities and to produce their assessment task in that module through ICT means. Students in all key stages will also focus on cultural diversity as an important aspect of their learning.

Staff Development and Monitoring

There are two full time Religion, Ethics & Philosophy teachers who deliver the subject. Courses are attended and meetings with other staff teaching Religious Studies are held when necessary. Lesson observation and feedback takes place on a regular basis and is part of the staff Performance Management cycle.

Planning Strategies

The teacher i/c Religion, Ethics & Philosophy leads the planning within the department and meets with other teachers of Religion, Ethics & Philosophy on a formal and informal basis before the beginning of each module. Any changes to modules are made in light of discussion, faculty and school policy.

Resources

A good range of teaching/learning resources exist at both Key Stages 3 & 4, including texts, video material and various artefacts. Resources for AS and A2 are being developed.

Guest speakers from all major faiths studied are encouraged to visit school and share in the delivery of lessons when appropriate.