

Buckler's Mead Academy

Beliefs and Values - Subject Information

***'Weak minds discuss people, average minds discuss events, great minds discuss ideas.'* - Eleanor Roosevelt**

The study of Beliefs and Values is a powerful tool to understand people, ourselves and the universe. It enables positive engagement with people from a variety of different religions, cultures and philosophies. The study fosters the development of skills that enable a person to engage with those of different religions, cultures and philosophies. We spend our lives meeting people from different backgrounds: political, national, cultural etc. With study of religion as the lens, we develop the skills of tolerance, respect and collaboration.

Our curriculum at Bucklers Mead Academy places heavy emphasis on Knowledge and understanding of Major beliefs present in the 21 Century world and in particular, the United Kingdom. We teach knowledge about the key beliefs and practices and students will develop fluency in articulating key concepts and vocabulary from the six major Religions and from branches of Philosophy. Christianity has a core focus due to its local prevalence and its historic cultural contribution to British Life. Islam has a central focus due to its size and socio-political reach. Buddhism is also studied as a representative of the alternative perspective of eastern religions. Hinduism, Sikhism, Judaism & Paganism will also be explored in part through the thematic units.

We seek to find an appreciation of the practices/beliefs and acknowledgement of the positive impact they have played on individuals communities and society. We remain neutral on matters of belief while seeking to present it in a fair and positive light. Any student of faith will find the study of their religion as complementary and accessible.

Our curriculum will develop knowledge in critical thinking and evaluation of beliefs. Our curriculum provides space for evaluation and reflection, considering the relative merits of an idea and the impact it has on individuals, communities and society. Our curriculum also allows for an exploration of one's own beliefs through extracting meaning and value.

Our curriculum explores:

- A chronological path that reflects the personal journey of understanding of religious and philosophical concepts.
- What do we mean when we talk of God and what does it matter?
- What is God like and how does that influence personal practice?,
- How do our own Beliefs and values impact our daily lives?,
- How do we make moral decisions as we ask them in every moment of our lives?

By the end of Key stage 3 Students will know The shared narrative of and the similarities and differences between the abrahamic faiths of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. They will also know A concept of who God is, and how God and God's word can be interpreted literally or liberally. They will know Key beliefs and practices of Eastern philosophies and how they differ to abrahamic religions. Finally they will know Key philosophical and ethical ideas enabling them to think critically and in depth about life, morality and choices. Our students will be able to explain and evaluate the impact a belief has on an individual's practice, action, behaviour and emotional wellbeing. Our students will also think critically in depth about their life, moral and ethical choices, and will be able to consider the beliefs and perspectives of others, being able to respond with wisdom, understanding and compassion leading towards unity and inclusion.

By the end of Key Stage 4 students will know religious and philosophical perspectives on issues concerning relationships, war and conflict, crime and punishment and issues in contemporary society. They will know key values and principals that can impact their life and provide them with skills to be successful in life beyond Bucklers Mead. They will also be able to articulate a variety of perspectives on key ethical issues. They will be able to apply their critical thinking skills to new and unknown ethical dilemmas and situations they face. They will see similarities between the study of religion and the study of politics, society and philosophy.