



Blue Coat Church of England Academy

Year: 8

Subject: Religious Studies

The Trinity and Why People Believe in God

What is God like? We explore the key characteristics of God, focussing on God within the Trinity and his roles on Earth. We then move into an investigation as to whether or not God exists looking at key philosophical and theological arguments such as the Design Argument and the First Cause Argument. We also look at the arguments from Suffering and Science. We conclude by creating a leaflet with the title 'Help! I'm confused about God'.

Creation & The Fall

Should Christians be greener than everyone else?
Genesis 1 - What sort of text is it? (news report, letter, epic poem, law code, prayer, scientific account?) What are the differences between Genesis and the Big Bang Theory? What evidence is there that humans are good and bad? (or in the words of the sixteenth century philosopher Blaise Pascal, the "glory and wretchedness of humanity"). How can you explain this feature of being human? Humans were made "in the image of God" – what does this mean? Explain two Christian beliefs about the creation of the world. How should we interpret Genesis? We look at a variety of different creation stories to debate whether or no Christians should be more environmentally conscious than other faiths.

Death

Is it the end?

What songs, films and pictures do I associate with heaven and hell? How can belief in afterlife benefit my earthly life? How do my actions on earth affect my afterlife? If I am predestined, does that mean my actions don't matter? What actions will allow me to go to heaven? What do I think heaven looks like? How does belief in reincarnation affect someone's life? How do different religious views on death compare to my own?

What does Justice mean to Christians?

What does the example of Jesus show about justice, fairness and love? Who are the heroes of Christian justice in the last 100 years? Why do some Christian people sacrifice themselves for others? Have Christian leaders changed the world for the better? What should you do when human rights are denied? What have some Christians done?

War and Peace

We look at whether war can ever truly be religious, is it ever right to use nuclear weapons and can Muslims be pacifist? We debate whether the USA should have dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima to end WW2, what the Islamic and Christian perspective on this is and what the true meaning of Lesser Jihad is.

Isn't life a moral maze?

Can we live well together even though we're all different? Is religion anti-racist? Should politicians listen more to religious leaders? What does it mean to respect the Earth? What can we do to break down generational barriers or barriers between religions? Are 'British values' also religious values? What will make Walsall a better community for all?

Information

Blue Coat Church of England School follows a combination of 'Understanding Christianity' from the Church of England Education Office, and the Walsall and Wolverhampton Agreed Syllabus. Each unit has a key question with 3 areas of study:

- (i) 'Explore' - Key texts and beliefs from various religions
- (ii) 'Relate' – How do the actions of the believer relate to the beliefs?
- (iii) 'Apply' – How can I apply the belief to what I see of my life and the world around me?