Religious Education Key Stage 3

Curriculum map







1. Philosophy

Six underlying attributes at the heart of Oak's curriculum and lessons.

Lessons and units are **knowledge and vocabulary rich** so that pupils build on what they already know to develop powerful knowledge.

Knowledge is **sequenced** and mapped in a **coherent** format so that pupils make meaningful connections.

Our **flexible** curriculum enables schools to tailor Oak's content to their curriculum and context.

Our curriculum is **evidence informed** through rigorous application of best practice and the science of learning.

We prioritise creating a **diverse** curriculum by committing to diversity in teaching and teachers, and the language, texts and media we use, so all pupils feel positively represented.

Creating an **accessible** curriculum that addresses the needs of all pupils is achieved to accessibility guidelines and requirements.







KS3 Religious Education is formed of 9 units and this is the recommended sequence:

Unit Title	Recommended year group	Number of lessons
1 Judaism: beliefs and teachings	Year 7	13
2 Judaism: practices	Year 7	13
3 Christianity: beliefs and teachings	Year 7	13
4 Christianity: practices	Year 8	13
5 Islam: beliefs and teachings	Year 8	13
6 Islam: practices	Year 8	13
7 Buddhism: beliefs and teachings	Year 9	13
8 Buddhism: practices	Year 9	13
9 Non-religious world views	Year 9	13



3. Lessons

Unit 1 Judaism: beliefs and teachings

13 Lessons

Lesson number	Lesson question	About the lesson
1.	Understanding God in History	Pupils will learnFreewill.God as all knowing.
2.	Concept of God	Pupils will learn • Names of God. • Qualities of God.
3.	Creation	 Pupils will learn Creation from nothing, days of creation. Shabbat. Humans created in God's image.

4.	Chosen People	Pupils will learn
		 Abraham and the promised land.
		Status as chosen people.
		• Isaac and Jacob (12 tribes).
5.	Foremothers (Biblical Women)	Pupils will learn
		 Foremothers: Sara, Rebecca, Rachel & Leah; Miriam (Moses' sister); Deborah (the prophetess).
6.	Moses and the Exodus	Pupils will learn
		• The story of Passover.
		Journey to Sinai.
7.	Moses and the Commandments	Pupils will learn
		• 10 commandments.
		• 613 Mitzvot.
		• Torah.
8.	Recap and Practise	Pupils will learn
		 An opportunity to recap the learning in the first seven lessons. Inclusion of some examination style questions

and a return to the key concepts.

9.	Building the Temple (Temple period and start of Rabbinic Judaism)	 Pupils will learn David and Solomon. Destruction of the Temple. Mishnah Talmud.
10.	13 Principles of Faith	 Pupils will learn Maimonides; Shulchan Aruch; tenants of faith and redaction of law. Sefardic & Ashkanazi differences.
11.	Afterlife	Pupils will learnBeliefs about death and dying.Links to mourning practices.
12.	Revision	Pupils will learn Recap of key content explored in the unit. Equipment You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue

and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

13. Deliberate Practice

Pupils will learn

- Deliberate practice of key words and quotations from the unit.
- Specific explanations of the meaning of key words and the meaning of quotations.

Equipment



Unit 2 Judaism: practices





Lesson number	Lesson question	About the lesson
1.	Loving God	Pupils will learn
		• The Shema.
		When and how the Shema is said.
		 What does it mean to be commanded to love God?
		Equipment
		 You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.
2.	Brit Milah	Pupils will learn
		Brit Milah.
		Baby naming ceremony.
		Equipment
		 You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

3. Bar and Bat Mitzvah

Pupils will learn

- Taking responsibility for following the law.
- Ceremonies and customs.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

Food Laws

Pupils will learn

- Kashrut.
- What makes food Kosher?

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

5. Shabbat

Pupils will learn

- Origin in creation.
- Meaning of 'rest' a day that is different to other days.
- Variety of practice in Judaism.

Equipment



6. Recap and Practice

Pupils will learn

 An opportunity to recap the learning in the first five lessons. Inclusion of some examination style questions and a return to the key concepts.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

7. The Synagogue

Pupils will learn

- Ways of worship in the synagogue.
- The Torah.
- Different denominations.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

8. Festivals

Pupils will learn

- Passover.
- Rosh Hashanah.
- Yom Kippur.

Equipment



Caring for the Environment

Pupils will learn

- Environmental problems.
- Beliefs regarding stewardship.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

10. Loving Your Neighbour

Pupils will learn

- Visiting the sick.
- Loving kindness (actions of 'chesed').

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

11. Valuing Human Life

Pupils will learn

 Application of Jewish teaching to abortion and euthanasia.

Equipment



12. Revision

Pupils will learn

• Recap of key content explored in the unit.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

13. Deliberate Practice

Pupils will learn

- Deliberate practice of key words and quotations from the unit.
- Specific explanations of the meaning of key words and the meaning of quotations.

Equipment



Unit 3 Christianity: beliefs and teachings





Lesson number	Lesson question	About the lesson
1.	The Nature of God	Pupils will learn
		 God as omnipotent, omnibenevolent, creator, eternal.
		 Where these qualities can be found in the creation narrative.
		Equipment
		 You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.
2.	The Trinity	Pupils will learn
		The mystery of the Trinity.
		One God, three persons.
		Roles of members of the Trinity.
		Equipment
		 You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

3. The Incarnation

Pupils will learn

- Nativity.
- God become flesh.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

Pupils will learn

• Jesus' teaching, miracles and actions.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

5. The Crucifixion

Pupils will learn

• The events of Holy Week.

Equipment



6. The Resurrection

Pupils will learn

- The empty tomb.
- Jesus conquering death.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

7. Recap and Practice

Pupils will learn

• An opportunity to recap the learning in the first six lessons. Inclusion of some examination style questions and a return to the key concepts.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

8. The Ascension

Pupils will learn

- Jesus' ascension to heaven.
- Meaning for Christians today.
- The Great Commission.

Equipment



The Church & Pentecost

Pupils will learn

- The giving of the Holy Spirit.
- Nature of the Church.
- Spread of the Church into all nations.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

10. Sin, judgement & forgiveness

Pupils will learn

- Jesus' death as atonement for sin.
- Judgement based on deeds, faith, deeds and faith.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

11. Afterlife

Pupils will learn

• Different understandings of heaven, hell and purgatory.

Equipment



12. Revision

Pupils will learn

• Recap of key content explored in the unit.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

13. Deliberate Practice

Pupils will learn

- Deliberate practice of key words and quotations from the unit.
- Specific explanations of the meaning of key words and the meaning of quotations.

Equipment



Unit 4 Christianity: practices





Lesson number	Lesson question	About the lesson
1.	Nature of worship: types of worship	Pupils will learn
		• Examples of worship.
		Liturgical and non-liturgical.
		Public and private.
		Equipment
		 You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.
2.	Nature of worship: building	Pupils will learn
		• Features of a church.
		 Use of church in the local community.
		Equipment
		 You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

3. Baptism

Pupils will learn

- Infant and adult baptism.
- R.C and Baptist understandings.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

Eucharist

Pupils will learn

- Roman Catholic belief in transubstantiation.
- Free Church beliefs in remembrance meal.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

5. Confession

Pupils will learn

- Practise in Roman Catholicism.
- Protestant / Free church understanding of accountability.

Equipment



6. Recap and practice

Pupils will learn

• An opportunity to recap the learning in the first five lessons. Inclusion of some examination style questions and a return to the key concepts.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

7. Pilgrimage

Pupils will learn

Lourdes and Iona.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

8. Festivals: Christmas & Easter

Pupils will learn

- Recap on birth narrative and how Christmas is celebrated.
- Recap on Holy Week and how Easter is celebrated.

Equipment



9. Service & Evangelism

Pupils will learn

- Service in the local community food banks, street pastors.
- Evangelism in local community, Alpha.
- Mission.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

10. Application to Human Issues: Abortion & Euthanasia

Pupils will learn

- Age appropriate explanation of abortion and euthanasia.
- Situation ethics.
- Sanctity of life.

Equipment



11. Application to Non-Human Issues: Stewardship

Pupils will learn

- Ideas of stewardship in the creation narrative.
- Use of animals for cosmetic and medical testing.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

12. Revision

Pupils will learn

• Recap of key content explored in the unit.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

13. Deliberate Practise

Pupils will learn

- Deliberate practise of key words and quotations from the unit.
- Specific explanations of the meaning of key words and the meaning of quotations.

Equipment



Unit 5 Islam: beliefs and teachings





Lesson number	Lesson question	About the lesson
1.	Abrahamic origins	Pupils will learn
		Life of Ibrahim.
		Ibrahim's tests of faith.
		Influence of Ibrahim on emergence of Islam.
		Equipment
		 You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.
2.	Muhammad	Pupils will learn
		The life of Muhammad.
		Revelation of the Qur'an.
		Emergence of Islam after revelation.
		Equipment
		 You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

3. Sunni/Shi'a Split

Pupils will learn

- Islam after the death of Muhammad.
- How two denominations formed.
- Caliphs/Imams.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

What is Imamate?

Pupils will learn

• Specific focus on the role of the Imamate in Shi'a Islam.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

5. Recap and Practice

Pupils will learn

 An opportunity to recap the learning in the first four lessons. Inclusion of some examination style questions and a return to the key concepts.

Equipment



6. Tawhid

Pupils will learn

- Tawhid as the most important belief in Islam.
- Concept of Tawhid.
- Influence on the life of a Muslim.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

7. Angels

Pupils will learn

• Names and roles of particular angels.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

8 Prophets in Islam

Pupils will learn

- Names and roles of particular prophets.
- Importance of Muhammad as final prophet.

Equipment



9. Holy Books

Pupils will learn

- Importance of holy books in Islam other than the Qur'an.
- Why the Qur'an is different to other revelations.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

10. Day of Judgement

Pupils will learn

- Beliefs about what happens when you die.
- Beliefs on the day of judgement.
- Beliefs about Jannah and Jahannam.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

Belief in Predestination

Pupils will learn

 What is predestination and how does it influence a Muslim's life?

Equipment



12. Revision

Pupils will learn

• Recap of key content explored in the unit.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

13. Deliberate Practice

Pupils will learn

- Deliberate practice of key words and quotations from the unit.
- Specific explanations of the meaning of key words and the meaning of quotations.

Equipment



Unit 6 Islam: practices

13 Lessons



Lesson number	Lesson question	About the lesson
1.	Shahadah	Pupils will learn
		 Introduction to the five pillars.
		Shahadah as a belief.
		How Shahadah is shown in practice.
		Equipment
		 You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.
2.	Salah	Pupils will learn
		What is the purpose of prayer in Islam?
		 How do Muslims prepare for prayer?
		Equipment
		 You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

3. Zakah

Pupils will learn

- The purpose of Zakah.
- Who it is given to?

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

Sawm

Pupils will learn

- The purpose of fasting within Islam.
- How this looks in practice.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

5. Hajj

Pupils will learn

- The origins of Hajj rituals.
- What is done on Hajj.
- Importance of Hajj.

Equipment



Deliberate	Practice	(Part 1)
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Pupils will learn

• An opportunity to recap the learning in the first five lessons. Inclusion of some examination style questions and a return to the key concepts.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

7. Eid ul-Fitr

Pupils will learn

- Origins of the festival.
- How it is celebrated around the world by Muslims.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

8. Eid ul-Adha

Pupils will learn

- Origins of the festival.
- How it is celebrated around the world by Muslims.

Equipment

9. Ashura

Pupils will learn

- Origins of the festival.
- How it is celebrated around the world by Muslims.
- Difference in Sunni/Shi'a beliefs on Ashura.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

10. What is Halal?

Pupils will learn

- The approach in Islam to the use of animals.
- What is the halal slaughter?
- Muslim dietary needs.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

11. Khalifah

Pupils will learn

• A response to the use and treatment of the environment within Islam.

Equipment



12. Revision

Pupils will learn

• Recap of key content explored in the unit.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

13. Deliberate Practice (Part 2)

Pupils will learn

- Deliberate practice of key words and quotations from the unit.
- Specific explanations of the meaning of key words and the meaning of quotations.

Equipment



Unit 7 Buddhism: beliefs and teachings





Lesson number	Lesson question	About the lesson
1.	A Brief History of India	Pupils will learn
		 Basic precepts of Brahmic philosophy and its relation to the central ideas surrounding the nature of the universe (taught through Hindu philosophy).
		Equipment
		 You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.
2.	The Life of Siddhartha Gautama	Pupils will learn
		The life of the historical Buddha.
		 How we came to the four noble truths.
		The journey that led to his revelation.
		Equipment
		 You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

The Three Marks of Existence

Pupils will learn

• The big questions surrounding the idea of self, permanence and suffering.



Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

Guidance warnings

 Contains subject matter which individuals may find upsetting.

4. The Mind, Desire and Attachment: The Skandhas

Pupils will learn

- What is desire and how does it manifest?
- Are the objects of desire innate or fleeting?
- Desire from a Buddhist standpoint.

Equipment

5. Dukkha and The Four Noble Truths

Pupils will learn

• Is suffering universal? Why do we suffer? What is the relationship between desire and suffering?

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

6. Recap and practice

Pupils will learn

 An opportunity to recap the learning in the first five lessons. Inclusion of some examination style questions and a return to the key concepts.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

7. The Four Noble Truths

Pupils will learn

 What are the four noble truths and why was it a significant revelation in Buddhism?

Equipment

8. Dhamma, Karma, and Rebirth

Pupils will learn

- How does action impact on the universal system?
- Buddhist understanding of dharma, karma and the rebirth.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

Guidance warnings

 Contains subject matter which individuals may find upsetting.

The Eightfold Path

Pupils will learn

- How can you ensure that the consequences of your actions create good karmic fruits?
- Buddhist ethics.
- Eightfold path as help towards people being mindful of their actions.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

Guidance warnings

 Contains subject matter which individuals may find upsetting.



10. Enlightenment

Pupils will learn

- The final attainment.
- What is this mystical state known as being Enlightened?

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

Guidance warnings

 Contains subject matter which individuals may find upsetting.

11. Buddhist Scripture

Pupils will learn

- Parables and teachings of the Buddha such as Kisa and the mustard seed.
- Extracts from the Dhammapada.
- The meaning of these texts and links to Buddhist philosophy.

Equipment



12. Revision of Buddhist Philosophy and Beliefs

Pupils will learn

• Recap of key content explored in the unit.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

13. Deliberate Practice

Pupils will learn

- Deliberate practice of key words and quotations from the unit.
- Specific explanations of the meaning of key words and the meaning of quotations.

Equipment



Unit 8 Buddhism: practices





Lesson number	Lesson question	About the lesson
1.	Meditation	Pupils will learn
		 What is meditation? What is the goal of meditation?
		 Meditation within Buddhist practice and why it is seen as a central tool to live a good life.
		Equipment
		 You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.
		Guidance warnings
		 Contains subject matter which individuals may find upsetting.
2.	Buddhist Practice	Pupils will learn
		 A Vihara and how the building and practices within are symbolic of Buddhist teachings and the journey of enlightenment.
		Equipment
		 You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

3. The Sangha

Pupils will learn

- The journey towards enlightenment.
- Why some renounce the world and seek deep discovery.
- How the Sanha provides support and protection for this journey.
- Controversy in how monks and nuns have dedicated their lives.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

Guidance warnings

 Contains subject matter which individuals may find upsetting.

4. Loving Kindness

Pupils will learn

 The Buddhist commitment to living through the eightfold path has led to acts of loving kindness.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

Guidance warnings

 Contains subject matter which individuals may find upsetting.



5. Anniversaries of the Buddha's Life

Pupils will learn

• The festival of Vesak and how different aspects of the Buddha's life is celebrated across South East Asia.



Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

6. Recap and Practice

Pupils will learn

• An opportunity to recap the learning in the first five lessons. Inclusion of some examination style questions and a return to the key concepts.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

7. Denominations

Pupils will learn

- How Buddhim travelled from Indian to Sri Lanka etc.
- How the vehicles were created and the differences between denominations.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

Guidance warnings

• Contains conflict or violence.

8.	Theravada Buddhism

Pupils will learn

• Practices and festivals in South East Asia such as Songkran and Vesak.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

9. Mahayana: Practices and Festivals

Pupils will learn

• Practices and festivals in China such as Parinirvana Day.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

10. Vajrayana Buddhism

Pupils will learn

- Practices and festivals in Tibet.
- The purpose of Bardo Thodol.

Equipment

11. Buddhism in the West

Pupils will learn

- Students own personal experiences of Buddhism.
- Elements of studies so far within modern England.
- How eastern ideas came to the west from the Theosophical society of Madame Blavatsky in the 19th Century.
- Buddhist traditions in the west (such as mindfulness).

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

12. Revision of Buddhist Practices

Pupils will learn

• Recap of key content explored in the unit.

Equipment



13. Deliberate Practice

Pupils will learn

- Deliberate practice of key words and quotations from the unit.
- Specific explanations of the meaning of key words and the meaning of quotations.

Equipment



Unit 9 Non-religious world views





Lesson number	Lesson question	About the lesson
1.	Scientific Views on the Origins of the Universe	Pupils will learn
		 Big bang theory as the majority view.
		God particle.
		First cause argument and criticism.
		Equipment
		 You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.
2.	Scientific Views on the Origins of the Humanity	Pupils will learn
		• Evolution.
		The selfish gene.
		The design argument and criticisms.
		Equipment
		 You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

3. History of Atheism

Pupils will learn

- Enlightenment and epistemology.
- 20th century development of atheism.
- Scepticism.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

4 Humanism

Pupils will learn

- How humanism has developed.
- References to origins of the universe.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

5. Understanding of Religion in Sociology

Pupils will learn

• Marx and God as a social construct.

Equipment



6. Understanding of Religion in Psychology

Pupils will learn

- Freud religion as wish fulfillment.
- Jung religion as collective unconscious.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

7. What is Ethics?

Pupils will learn

- Relativism and absolutism.
- Introduce thought experiments.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

8. Utilitarianism

Pupils will learn

- What is utilitarianism?
- Application of utilitarianism to Jim and the indians.
- Strengths and weaknesses.

Equipment



9. Kantian Ethics

Pupils will learn

- Recognition that Kant's religious beliefs are unclear.
- Rule based approach to ethics.
- Application to 'Nazi at the door'.
- Strengths and weaknesses.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

10. Modern Virtue Ethics

Pupils will learn

- Elizabeth Anscombe / Phillipa foot Modern virtue ethics.
- Application to the trolley problem.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

Non-religious approaches to Equality

Pupils will learn

- Feminist perspectives on society.
- Issues of race in society.

Equipment



12. Revision

Pupils will learn

• Recap of key content explored in the unit.

Equipment

• You will need two different coloured pens: black or blue and another coloured pen, such as green or red.

13. Deliberate practice

Pupils will learn

- Deliberate practice of key words and quotations from the unit.
- Specific explanations of the meaning of key words and the meaning of quotations.

Equipment







Contents

Section number	Section title
1.	Coherence and flexibility
2.	Knowledge organisation
3.	Knowledge in Religious Education
4.	Pupil engagement
5.	Motivation through learning
6.	Subject structure overview

1. Coherence and flexibility

We strive to support schools by giving them an online learning offer that can be flexible to fit alongside their existing curriculum. We need to balance this together with coherence as complete flexibility would imply only standalone lessons where none can build upon any other. In striking this balance, we will lean towards giving the maximum flexibility possible (where this does not compromise coherence). With KS3, we want to provide schools with units that give clear knowledge on the beliefs and practices within religions, as well as non-religious worldviews, that can easily slot into, or work alongside a school's current curriculum.

We do not want to prescribe a sequence for KS3, as schools will most likely want to fit Oak's curriculum alongside their own. However, there are a number of suggested sequences:



- 1. Schools may want to take the approach of studying the beliefs unit of a religion, and then the practices unit, so they are building on knowledge of that religion successively.
- 2. Schools may want to take the approach of interleaving, by studying the beliefs units of the religions first, and then returning to the practices units.

We do suggest, however, that the Abrahamic religions are taught together, so students have an understanding of the difference between Abrahamic and Dharmic religions. There is an opportunity there for schools to draw out the differences, as well as the similarities.

The non-religious worldviews, philosophy and ethics unit is designed to work both as a whole unit but also as standalone lessons where needed. Some prior knowledge from other lessons may be useful, but not a necessity for this unit.

2. Knowledge organisation

RE is made up of a matrix of elements. These include:

- **History**: For example, being able to understand Christianity requires a knowledge of the historical context of Judaism and Israel.
- **Beliefs**: For example, the claim by Muslims that Muhammad is the last prophet.
- **Practices**: For example, the practice of Passover has grown out of the belief that God saved Jews from Egypt.
- **Themes**: For example, the beliefs and practices of Islam and Christianity and how this impacts contemporary views around Relationships and Families.

We have chosen to organise it by beliefs and practices initially and then lead into how these impact themes at KS4. Other elements will be woven into the curriculum.

3. Knowledge in Religious Education

In Religious Education, when a religious believer knows something they hold a claim of some sort. They regard their claim as true. Therefore, knowledge of those beliefs is a form of factual knowledge, or 'second-order claims'. It is best to encourage pupils to regard knowledge claims, made by teachers, in these online lessons, about what a religious person believes and practices, as second-order claims. Alongside this 'second-order' claims, the substantive knowledge, we also want students to consider the disciplinary knowledge within religious studies: the methods of learning about religious beliefs and practices, the status of revelation for different groups within a faith, the influence and impact of Jewish thinking on Christian beliefs and teachings etc.



4. Pupil engagement

We need pupils to be thinking during their lessons - both to engage with the subject and to strengthen memory of what is being learnt. Our lessons will not be video lectures, there will be regular 'pause points' (opportunities to answer questions, to do short tasks) and to complete examination style questions that require them to use material studied during that lesson. This is done to emulate classroom teaching as much as possible. We seek to exercise pupils' minds throughout their lessons. This will involve questions and tasks throughout instruction, just as we would with classroom teaching. Religious Education naturally lends itself towards narrative and debate, which are intrinsically motivating and help with engagement and memory.

5. Motivation through learning

Like all teachers, we recognise that good presentation helps pupils keep participating in our lessons. However, we are teachers, and not entertainers. We seek to motivate children through our subject. We believe that what we teach is inherently interesting, and that the joy of learning is our primary motivator. We strongly believe this approach to religious studies (intellectually stimulating, choice of the most powerful knowledge, structure of video lessons etc.) will build motivation in pupils. Lessons will be constructed in a way that builds self-efficacy throughout the lessons, and encourages them to respond positively to the build up of challenge. We want students to be within the 'struggle zone' (Allison and Tharby, 'Making every lesson count'), where there is high challenge, low stress. Where thinking is required, where effective learning takes place. Where we can avoid cognitive overload and therefore build motivation in the pupils.

6. Subject structure overview

Unit title

Prior knowledge required

Judaism: practices

Judaism: beliefs and teachings

Christianity: beliefs and teachings Judaism: beliefs and teachings and Judaism: practices (useful

but not a necessity)

Christianity: practices Christianity: beliefs and teachings

Islam: practices Islam: beliefs and teachings

Buddhism: practices Buddhism: beliefs and teachings

