

# Religious Studies

Religious Studies is taught at St. Andrew's from the Pre-Prep through to Year 8, where pupils are prepared for Common Entrance and Scholarship examinations in the subject, with a high proportion obtaining A grades. It is taught in the Main School as an academic subject like any other. There are two time-tabled lessons of RS per week for each pupil in addition to the planned input into each child's moral and spiritual development through chapel services, assemblies and special events such as Bible Week.

In the Pre-Prep children are introduced to some stories, traditions and beliefs from a variety of religions. This is built upon in the Junior Department (Years 3 and 4), where the focus is mainly Bible-based, but some time is spent considering wider issues of faith and looking at some Hindu beliefs and practices. Christianity is studied throughout but Year 6 also studies Islam while Year 7 studies Judaism. In Year 8 there is an opportunity to study a 'faith community' as a project. There are visits arranged to churches and a synagogue and there are occasional visits from outside speakers.

A wide range of methods is deployed to deliver the curriculum, including drama, the use of computers and filmed material and discussion. Use is made of study skills techniques to help pupils to remember the large amount of information they need to absorb for examinations. However, it is important that our pupils are not simply instructed in certain facts about religions but are brought to think about the many issues arising from the topics of our syllabus. The department holds many texts and other media but, ultimately, it is the interaction between pupil and teacher which is crucial in maintaining a lively interest in the subject.

This, in turn, helps us to achieve not only good results but a level of spiritual development which our recent inspectors described as 'very good'.

