

Supporting your child's learning in... Philosophy, Religion and Ethics

Why is PRE important?

Philosophy, Religion and Ethics develops students' awareness and understanding of different religious and secular world views. Exploring different beliefs, practices and forms of expression show how faith and religion has an impact on individuals, families, communities and cultures.

PRE equips students with the much needed skills to live in a multicultural, multi faith environment that is modern Britain along with fostering a deeper understanding of the world. The subject encourages students to ask and reflect on fundamental questions of life. It asks students to evaluate the different beliefs, opinions and experiences of others and how to live our lives. The study of PRE teaches students to listen attentively, speak thoughtfully, write persuasively and promote mutual respect and tolerance.

What is PRE about?

At all Key Stages students study a wide range of religious, philosophical and ethical topics.

At **Key Stage 3** every topic begins with a **challenging question** such as: **Does prayer work? Are religious teachings from the past still relevant today? How should we live? Where did the universe come from?**

At **Key Stage 4**, students taking GCSE RS study a range of topics such Crime and Punishment, Marriage & Family, Peace & Conflict exploring both non –religious and religious responses, including Christianity & Islam.

At **Key Stage 5**, students study Philosophy of Religion and Ethics

Every student in every year is encouraged to analyse, challenge and enquire into views that are similar and dissimilar to their own, developing a deeper understanding of the society they live in.

How you can help to develop PRE skills outside the classroom

Engaging in PRE

Philosophy, religion and ethics is not just confined to the classroom! At home **watching or reading the news** and being interested in current affairs can be great way of developing your knowledge and understanding of religious issues such as the recent debates around women bishops, gay marriage and the Church or exploring some controversial moral or ethical issues such as genetic engineering, the right to die, or abortion. Discussing these this will help to improve debating and evaluation skills.

TV Dramas are also a good source of material especially for GCSE students who are studying moral issues. There are also a vast range of **films** which cover some key philosophical and ethical questions and explore the nature of religion and belief such as 'Is reality an illusion?' from The Matrix, 'Do we have free will?' in the Truman Show, 'Is it right to create a saviour sibling?' in My Sister's Keeper and 'What can I learn about Christianity from the Narnia films?'

Visit New Places

Visit places of worship. It might be something as simple as visiting a Church in your local village or it may be far more exotic, visiting a temple whilst on holiday in Asia or a Mosque in Turkey; either way, it is great for students to experience firsthand beliefs in practice so that they get to experience cultural diversity and bring the PRE classroom to life.

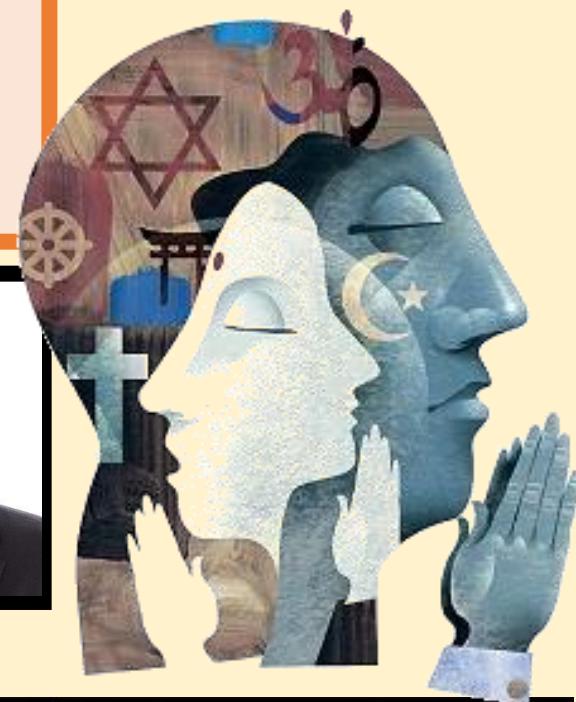
Get your child to justify their opinions when they voice them at home. Always ask them why they have certain views and what examples can they give to support them. This leads them to develop their explanation skills as well as develop essential skills for life and work.



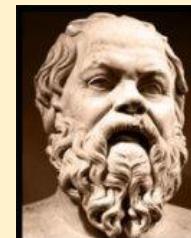
Click the icon to see PRE course information on the college website.

'I got nine GCSEs at C and above. The only one I failed was Religious Education, which is probably the one thing I've used most since leaving school. RE wasn't just about Christianity; it was learning about the way in which different people live...Essentially, it's all about becoming a better person and showing respect.'

Freddie Flintoff



The Philosophy film Club runs every Wednesday for year 7 & 8 in H3 at lunchtime.



THE UNEXAMINED LIFE IS NOT WORTH LIVING.
- SOCRATES

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