



HALL MEAD
SCHOOL

Religious Studies and PSCHE

Information for new students



Hello! Welcome to the SMSC Faculty! We can't wait to see you in September!

If you are wondering what SMSC stands for, it is:

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural education

Mrs Fanning is the Head of Faculty

We see that as being all the things we need and want to teach you that will help you grow into a responsible, tolerant and respectful citizen of the 21st Century!

We hope that means you will have some understanding of the different faiths, cultures, beliefs and values of the people you will meet and work with later in life. We also want you to know how make your own decisions, be able to explain them reasonably and – importantly – how to keep yourselves safe in a whole variety of ways.

You will take part in two subjects that we are responsible for:

Religious Studies & PSCHE





Year 7 Religious Studies

Religious Studies is a popular subject across all the year groups, with many pupils choosing to study it for their GCSEs. You will be taught once-a-week by Mrs Fanning or Mr Cashman – we are both RS specialists who love our subject and enjoy teaching and getting to know the new Year 7!

RS will be very different to the RE you have done at primary school as we get you exploring a whole range of beliefs (religious and non-religious), what matters to us, some philosophy (thinking about the big questions in life) and some world faiths.

Year 7 units include: An introduction to RS at Hall Mead, Christianity in the 21st Century and the teachings of Buddhism

Mr Cashman also runs a film club once-a-week showing a range of thought-provoking films and TV shows that link to our topics or values

What we want from YOU!

Joining in verbally is really important in our subject and you will have the chance to contribute to class discussion, ask questions, give your own opinions and perspectives and expand your vocabulary.

If speaking is really important in RS, so too is listening! You will learn the most when you are prepared to listen to our explanations AND the questions and answers of your classmates.

Make ALL work your best effort, whether this is writing, speaking, note-taking or drawing!

Not to worry about not understanding or 'getting something wrong'! We want you to ask questions or for help if you are stuck. RS offers a fantastic opportunity and safe space to discuss things where there isn't always one answer or a right answer.

Show respect for views, beliefs and ideas that are different from your own – you don't have to agree to learn from someone or something!

Handle any religious artefacts (objects) with care and respect

Learn the spelling and definition of a small set of keywords we give you each week (usually 3-4 new words).





Year 7 PSCHE



- Pupils study PSCHE in every year group at Hall Mead. The letters stand for: Personal, Social, Citizenship and Health Education! It is a really important subject as it covers topics you need to know about in order to keep safe, succeed, stay healthy and work well with others.
- You could get taught by the department teachers Mrs Fanning, Mr Cashman or Mrs Barnes, or, by a teacher you have for another subject as many teachers are part of the PSCHE team. You will have one lesson a week.
- That means by the time you leave Hall Mead, you will have been taught about issues such as: drugs, alcohol, careers, diet, Parliament & Democracy, voting, friendships and relationships, sex education, first aid, smoking, keeping safe online, diversity and equality and many more!

What we want from YOU!

Be prepared to discuss, debate and share your ideas – in a pair, small group or to the class during whole-class discussions

Get to know your classmates well and be able to work constructively and with good focus during groupwork

Be mature and sensible when learning about sensitive or what could be seen as ‘awkward or embarrassing’ topics

There is no such thing as a silly question! If you aren’t sure, need something to be repeated or think of a great question the teacher hasn’t covered, please ask!

Make all work your best effort whether it is writing, planning, presenting or designing



We have two lovely RS rooms over in the Alan Wunderly Centre (AWC) which have great displays, lots of artefacts to look at and pupil work to be inspired by.



We also have lots of hands-on resources for PSICHE which can be used whichever room you have your PSICHE lesson in!

