

 **SUBJECT:- Religious Moral & Philosophical Studies**

All pupils experience one period per week of RMPS in S1-S3. The coursework undertaken by learners throughout the BGE phase prepares them with the knowledge and skills required in order to progress on to the National 4/5 RMPS Qualifications in the Senior Phase.

**Who would this course suit?**

**This course is appropriate for a wide range of learners.**

**What are the aims of this course?**

The main aims of the course are to enable learners to:

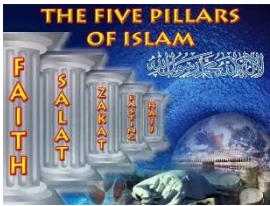
- Develop their knowledge and understanding of the main beliefs, values and practices of selected world religions,
- Develop their knowledge and understanding of current moral issues in society and of the current debates taking place between religion and science.
- Develop their skills of reflection, investigation, analysis, evaluation and their ability to express their own beliefs and views in a reasoned manner.

**What will I be learning about in this course?**

You will study:

**Unit 1 – World Religion**

In this unit you will study some of the key beliefs, practices and traditions found within either **Christianity, Islam or Buddhism**. You will consider the impact and significance of these religious beliefs, practices and teachings in today’s world.



**Unit 2 – Morality and Belief**

In this Unit you will have the opportunity to study moral issues surrounding **one** of the following options and you will consider both religious and non-religious responses to these issues.



### **Option 1 - Morality and Justice**

#### **In this option you will study:**

- the purposes of punishment e.g. retribution, deterrence, reformation, protection
- the causes of crime e.g. poverty, environment, psychological factors
- UK responses to crime e.g. custodial sentences, non-custodial sentences, crime prevention
- capital punishment and life tariffs
- human rights

### **Option 2 - Morality and Relationships**

#### **In this option you will study:**

- gender roles e.g. in the family, employment, religion
- sexual relationships e.g. the purpose of sex, sexual consent, same sex
- marriage e.g. arranged marriages, co-habitation, same-sex marriages, divorce
- equality and exploitation e.g. in religion, the media

### **Option 3 - Morality, Medicine and the Human Body**

#### **In this option you will study:**

- the value of life e.g. the right to life, right to die, sanctity of life, personal autonomy
- the use of embryos e.g. reproductive, research, therapeutic
- end-of-life care e.g. palliative, hospice
- euthanasia and assisted dying e.g. voluntary euthanasia, non-voluntary euthanasia, assisted dying provided by individuals or organisations

### **Option 4 - Morality and Conflict**

#### **In this option you will study:**

- conflict e.g. the causes of war, types of war, Geneva conventions, justifications
- the consequences of war e.g. human cost, environment, economic
- modern warfare e.g. modern armaments, weapons of mass destruction, smart weapons, conventional weapons
- alternatives to war e.g. sanctions, diplomacy, pacifism

### Unit 3 – Religious, Moral and Philosophical Questions

In this unit you will study **one** of the following philosophical issues in depth:

- The origins of the universe and life
- The existence of God
- The problem of evil and suffering



### Unit 4 – Added Value Unit

In this unit you will have the opportunity to research, in greater depth, an area of the course you have a particular interest in.

#### What skills will I develop?

You will develop a wide range of skills such as literacy, analysis and critical evaluation, logical thinking, problem solving, negotiating, planning, organising, researching, presenting, debating, interpreting, understanding different viewpoints, expressing informed opinions and beliefs in a reasoned manner.

#### What learning and teaching approaches will I experience?

You will experience a wide variety of learning and teaching approaches. Throughout the course you will have the opportunity to work individually, in pairs and in small groups, you will experience teacher-led class discussions and whole class debates. You will also have the opportunity to learn using interactive technologies.

#### How will I be assessed?

**To gain an award at National 4** in RMPS you must pass all of the unit assessments. Each Unit will be assessed, by the school, on a **pass/ fail** basis.

**To gain an award at National 5** in RMPS you must pass the final SQA exam.

- The course assessment will be **graded A-D**.
- The **assignment** will be awarded **20 marks**.
- The exam question paper will be awarded **80 marks**.
- The exam will last **2hr 20 mins**.

#### What are the homework requirements?

You will be issued with homework on a regular basis and should expect homework once a week.

## What might this course lead to in the future?

### Academic Progression

In the Senior Phase, pupils who attain a qualification in RMPS at:

- National 4 can progress to **National 5**
- National 5 can progress to **Higher**
- Higher can progress to **Advanced Higher**

**Higher RMPS is accepted by all universities** for general entrance into the majority of courses especially in the faculties of Art, Social Science and Divinity.

### Employment

For those considering a career which involves working with people such as **teaching, youth and community work, social work, child care, journalism, publishing, police force, armed forces, nursing, medicine, counselling, catering, retail and sales, broadcasting, charities, fundraising, civil service, human resources, law, management, local government, advisory services, politics leisure and tourism** or for those who wish to **work abroad** or in a cosmopolitan setting then RMPS will be a good stepping-stone.