

CURRICULUM INTENT




The Philosophy, Religion and Ethics (PRE) is a core subject and a distinctive offering at Avanti Fields. Its curriculum intent is to examine the most basic questions concerning human existence *sambandha* (the relationship between the living entity and the Supreme Entity), *abhidheya* (the means for attaining the object of pursuit) and *prayojana* (the very object of pursuit) namely Man, the world, and God. The PRE curriculum’s main focus is developing an appreciation and deepening one’s faith in the Chaitanya Hindu tradition, and it rests upon the study of five precepts of Sri Chaitanya’s teaching: chanting the holy name, deity worship, studying scripture, devotee association and residing at holy place.

The curriculum also enables students to learn **from** and **about** different faiths, philosophic theories and approaches to asking and answering the ‘big’ questions in life. We challenge students to be critical about their decision making, address ethics and develop the skill of looking through the lens of the school values to address difficult scenarios.

We emphasise to students: ‘don’t accept, don’t reject - think about these concepts and build your own conclusion.’ This cultivates their independent thoughtfulness, building both their written and verbal communication to evaluate, assess and discuss challenging concepts. These skills of PRE are transferable across all subjects and in life.

Our aspiration is for students to have an ambitious engagement with PRE with hope that they mature into applying into their lives wisdom, both ancient and contemporary.

THE AVANTI WAY

EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE 	CHARACTER FORMATION 	SPIRITUAL INSIGHT 
<p>PRE is a challenging holistic curriculum that cultivates independently thoughtful and reflective practice building on both written and verbal communication. Students work towards a sense of mastery to evaluate, assess and challenge difficult concepts through the exploration of ‘big questions.’ Students listen with an open mind, questions their own assumptions with emphatic dialogue.</p>	<p>PRE equips students to become conscious changemakers as a quest for making the world a better place, starting with oneself. Through the lens of the school’s values, students practice living conscientious choices, with sense of stewardship as well as a reverence for all life, nature and the earth’s resources. The application of wisdom includes global perspectives to facilitate their transcultural proficiency.</p>	<p>PRE promotes our interconnectedness with all living beings, challenging perceptions of the Self beyond its layers of coverings and seeing every being as individual and unique. Students evidence spiritual insight in terms of their own identity, their relationship with others, with the wider world and for some, their relationship with God. PRE offers experiences of worship, festivals and celebrations.</p>

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

The curriculum develops learners’ a) knowledge and understanding of Hinduism, major faiths and other world-views and b) critical thinking skills.

The PRE curriculum aims to ensure that all pupils:

Know about and understand Hinduism, and a range of religions and worldviews, so that they can:

1. describe, explain and analyse beliefs and practices, recognising the diversity which exists within and between communities and amongst individuals;

2. identify, investigate and respond to questions posed, and responses offered by some of the sources of wisdom found in religions and worldviews;
3. appreciate and appraise the nature, significance and impact of different ways of life and ways of expressing meaning.

Express ideas and insights about the nature, significance and impact of Hinduism, religions and worldviews, so that they can:

1. explain reasonably their ideas about how beliefs, practices and forms of expression influence individuals and communities;
2. express with increasing discernment their personal reflections and critical responses to questions and teachings about identity, diversity, meaning and value, including ethical issues;
3. appreciate and appraise varied dimensions of religion or a worldview

Gain and deploy the skills needed to engage seriously with Hinduism, religions and worldviews, so that they can:

1. find out about and investigate key concepts and questions of belonging, meaning, purpose and truth, responding creatively;
2. enquire into what enables different individuals and communities to live together respectfully for the wellbeing of all;
3. articulate beliefs, values and commitments clearly in order to explain why they may be important

ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK

Progress will be regularly assessed through class work, homework and knowledge tests. In addition, students will be assessed through:

- Formal assessments in the line of the school’s progress reviews
- Peer assessment
- Self-assessment topic sheet (one for each scheme of work)
- Knowledge tests
- Critical thinking and argument evaluation through presentations
- AQA GCSE paper practice for 12,6,4 and 2 mark questions.
- Quality of performing art works: art, drama and music; which is in the spirit of school’s ethos.

These methods of assessments will provide differing means of measuring the impact of PRE on students’ lives.

SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE

Key concepts and ideas shared in PRE will be supported by handouts, articles, videos and also powerpoint summaries. There will be lunch time intervention groups to support with home-work on additional insights on understanding the themes.

HOW PARENTS / CARERS CAN HELP

Academically:

At the start of each topic your child will receive a topic tracker which contains a description of what will be covered in each lesson. You could:

- check your child’s exercise book for presentation, effort, spelling, grammar and punctuation

- help manage the homework process. Let your child know you think education is important and that homework is a priority. Set aside a special place to study and establish a regular time for homework. Help your child stay organized, ask about daily assignments, and monitor their work. Always remember to notice and praise effort.
- discuss their progress by checking topic progress trackers at the start of each topic
- discuss your child's learning by using the topic assessment tracker as a question generator
- discussing your child's assessment tracker at the front of your child's exercise books
- encourage reading- read the same book with them. Taking it one step further, discuss the book together afterwards

Spiritually:

- Having meals together with no TV, mobile and other distractions.
- Be a student of your child's heart and get to know his or her special gifts and passions—then provide the opportunities for your child to grow in these areas.
- Dedicate time each day to acknowledge God in your lives.
- Encourage children to desire and value hard work. Look for opportunities to serve others as a family.
- Taking part in Pandava Sena Nights (whole family events).
- Visiting Bhaktivedanta Manor, especially on Sundays and festival days.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR / SUPER-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Clubs:

- Uncommon Sense- focus on life-skills and character development (Fortnightly)
- Journey Within- focus on spiritual insight (Fortnightly)
- Lunch time screening of Hindu epics such as Mahabharata and Ramayana

Trips:

- Bhaktivedanta Manor
- Places of worship of various faiths
- Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies
- Trips across the UK, Europe, and India through the Avanti Trust.

Speakers:

Regular talks from monks, religious leaders and academics

Recommended reading / other resources:

<https://vedabase.io/en/> - online Sila Prabhupada books

<http://krishnatemple.com/home/>

<http://krishna.com/>

<https://iskcondesiretree.com/page/kids>