

Reading is an essential part of RE. Religious teachings are rooted in texts and being able to read, understand and analyse a piece of text. The PPT and textbooks all play a part in literacy.

We encourage pupils to read in a variety of ways. Most lessons will include reading at some point – both aloud and reading independently in silence. We talk a lot about keywords and religious vocabulary used. We read from different types of documents, including extracts from authentic sources such as scripture, academic books and research, testimonies as well as holy books.

We encourage analysing quotes and sacred references; we often use the guided reading process in order to support pupils in understanding passages and how it an be used in their writing.

We also have a range of books that we recommend for pupils to read to extend their knowledge beyond the curriculum:

KS3	* indicates that the book is available in the school library
Title	Description
Myths of the World	Discover the lessons behind every story and get to the heart of cultures far and wide through the narratives that capture the way communities make sense of the world around them.
The Mythology Book *	Links with the overall theme of KS3 RE: What does it mean to be human? In Y7 pupils will explore Creation Myths. A wider knowledge and understanding of myths and their role in human history would be beneficial.
Usborne Philosophy for Beginners *	What is the meaning of life? What is the Universe made of? Read what philosophers have thought about the nature of reality, and the fundamental questions we ask ourselves as humans.
The Philosophy Book *	Links with the overall theme of KS3 RE: What does it mean to be human? Encourages pupils to be curious about life's big questions and to develop critical thinking skills.
The Religion book	From the key concepts of ancient beliefs to the ground-breaking ideas at the heart of modern faiths, religious history is explored in a universal timeline. This provides a global perspective on the origins and events contributing to the growth of spirituality, and the position of religion in
A Little History of Religion	society today. Links with Y7 What is religion? unit
Are you there God, it's me Margaret? *	Life isn't easy for Margaret. She's starting a new school, finding new friends – and she's convinced she's not normal. She hasn't got a clue whether she wants to be Jewish like her father or Christian like her mother. Everyone else seems really sure of who they are. So, she talks to God-and waits for an answer Links with the Y7 theme of identity and belonging.

Dimple Lala doesn't know what to think. Her parents are from India, and she's spent her whole life resisting their traditions. Then she goes to high school and everything Indian is trendy. This is a funny, thoughtful story about finding your place. Links with the Y7 theme of identity and belonging. Artichoke Hearts * Winner of the Waterstone's Children's Book Prize, Artichoke Hearts is an incredibly insightful, honest novel exploring the delicate balance of life and death – but at its heart is a celebration of friendship, culture, and life. Links with the overall theme of KS3 RE: What does it mean to be human? Tackling themes of immigration, colonialism and unfulfilled promises, this
Hearts * incredibly insightful, honest novel exploring the delicate balance of life ar death – but at its heart is a celebration of friendship, culture, and life. Links with the overall theme of KS3 RE: What does it mean to be human?
When Secrets Tackling themes of immigration, colonialism and unfulfilled promises, this
Set Sail * novel features bickering ghosts, a vitally important quest and a race again time. Links with Y7: diversity of religion and belief in modern Britain
Skies * Mira is bursting with excitement as she flies to India to stay with her aunt and cousin for the first time. As soon as she lands Mira is hurled into the sweltering heat and a place full of new sights, sounds, and deeply buried secrets Links with Y7: diversity of religion and belief in modern Britain
Talking beasts, heroic deeds and epic battles between good and evil await you in C. S. Lewis's classic fantasy series. C S Lewis incorporated many Christian theological concepts into his Narnia stories and Aslan is believed to be based on Jesus. Links with Y7 focus of understanding symbolism and metaphor
When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit * Suppose your country began to change. Suppose it became dangerous for some people to live in it any longer, and you found, to your surprise, that your own father was one of those people. This is what happened to Anna in 1933. One day she and her brother Max are rushed out of Germany in alarming secrecy, away from everything they know. Links with Y7 Judaism unit
The Boy at the back of the Class is a child's perspective on the refugee crisis, highlighting the importance of friendship and kindness in a world that doesn't always make sense. Links with the Y7 theme of identity and belonging.
Fight Back * Aaliyah is an ordinary thirteen-year-old living in the Midlands. But when her school bans the hijab and she is intimidated her choices, she feels isolated. Soon Aaliyah realises that other young people also struggle wit their identity and feel alone, scared and judged. Channelling all of her bravery, Aaliyah decides to speak out. Links with the Y7 theme of identity and belonging.
You must be Layla * A warm, humorous story about a larger-than-life Sudanese Muslim girl who wants to be an inventor navigating a posh Australian school. Links with the Y7 theme of identity and belonging.
Once upon an Eid is a collection of short stories that showcases Muslim voices writing about Eid. Stories of Hope and joy. Links with Y7 unit about Islam
Does my head look Big in this? * Sixteen-year-old Amal makes the decision to start wearing the hijab full-time and everyone has a reaction. Her parents, her teachers, her friends people on the street. But she stands by her decision to embrace her fait and all that it is. Links with Y8 theme of guidance and the unit: Does religion promote or hinder equality?
I am Malala * The story of a Muslim girl who stood up for education and was shot by the Taliban is an autobiographical book by Malala Yousafzai. Links to Y8: Does religion promote or hinder equality? and to Y9 unit: What inspires people to make a difference?

Amazing Muslims who changed the world *	AMAZING MUSLING FRANCED	There are so many amazing Muslim men and women who have changed our world, from pirate queens to athletes, to warriors and mathematicians. Who will your next hero be? Links to Y8: Does religion promote or hinder equality? and to Y9 unit: What inspires people to make a difference?
The Boy with the Top Knot	Boy Topknot	A sensitively written book that is both an autobiography of a young man from a Sikh community growing up in Britain, and a biography of a family in which two of its members suffer from schizophrenia. Links to Y8 unit: Does religion promote or hinder equality?
The Royal Rebel *	THE ROYAL REBEL	Princess Sophia Duleep Singh was the daughter of the last Sikh ruler of the Punjab and goddaughter of Queen Victoria. After their exile to England, Sophia had a privileged but troubled upbringing that left her unsure about where she belonged. Sensitive to injustice, she became a suffragette and fought hard to win the vote for women. Links to Y8 unit: Does religion promote or hinder equality?
The Wheel of Surya *	Wheel	As civil war rages in the Punjab, Marvinder and Jaspal are separated from their mother. Together they escape across India and nearly halfway around the world to England, to find a father they hardly know in a new, hostile culture. A powerful story of culture, class, family and faith. Links to Y8 unit: Does religion promote or hinder equality?
Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl	Anne France	The Diary of a Young Girl is the journal kept by Anne Frank while she was in hiding for two years with her family during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands. Links to Y8 unit: Judaism and the Covenant
Yankee Girl	Vankee Girl	It's 1964 and Alice has moved to Mississippi with her family. Nicknamed `Yankee Girl' and taunted at school, Alice soon discovers the other new girl - one of the school's first black students - has it much worse. Links to Y9 unit: What inspires people to make a difference?
Lord of the Flies *	GOLDING Lord of the Piles	A plane crashes on a desert island. The only survivors are a group of schoolboys. Orphaned by society, it isn't long before their innocent childhood games devolve into a savage, murderous hunt Links to Y9: The Philosophical Problem of Evil and Suffering and to the KS3 them of What does it mean to be human?
Through a Glass Darkly *	GAARDER GAARDER January January	Cecilia lies sick in bed as her family try to make her last Christmas as special as possible. An angel steps through her window and begins a series of conversations. As Cecilia thinks about her life, she changes subtly, in herself and in her relationships with her family. Links to Y9 unit: What matters in the journey of life?
(Un)Arranged Marriage *	in iled	Set partly in the UK and partly in India, this is the story of a young man's fight to free himself from family expectations and to be himself. Links to Y9 unit: What matters in the journey of life?
The Pig that wants to be eaten	THE PIG THAT WANTS TO BE EATEN JULAN BAGGINI **NEW MARKET	Is it right to eat a pig that wants to be eaten? Are you really reading this book cover, or are you in a simulation? If God is all-powerful, could he create a square circle? - questions to leave you inspired, informed and dumbfounded. Links to Y9: What is Philosophy?
Would you kill the fat man?	WOULD OU KILL FAT MAN?	Would you kill the fat man? The question may seem bizarre. But it's a puzzle that has baffled moral philosophers for almost half a century and that more recently has come to preoccupy neuroscientists, psychologists, and other thinkers as well. Links to Y9: What is Philosophy and Ethics?

Pig Heart Boy *	Cameron is thirteen, and all he wants is a 'normal' life. But his life is far from normal. He desperately needs a new heart because his doesn't work properly. Finally, one doctor offers hope. Cameron could have a transplant of a pig's heart into his human body. Links to Y9: What is Philosophy and Ethics?
Factfulness *	This book is an international bestseller, filled with anecdotes and moving stories, This book will change the way you see the world, and make you realise things are better than you thought. Links with the overall theme of KS3 RE: What does it mean to be human? Encourages pupils to be curious and to develop critical thinking skills.
KS4	
Terror Kid *	A novel about the choices that shape us. Rico knows trouble. Despite his efforts to stay on the right side of the law, Rico is angry and frustrated at the injustices he sees happening at home and around the world. Links to Extremism unit in Y10 RESPECT
Lovely Bones	In heaven, Susie can have whatever she wishes for - except to be back with the people she loved on earth. Susie watches as her family is torn apart by grief; as her friends grow up, fall in love, and do all the things she never had the chance to do herself. Links to RESPECT unit on beliefs about life after death
The Crossing *	Natalie's world is falling apart. Sammy has fled his home and family in Eritrea for the chance of a new life in Europe. A twist of fate brings them together and gives them both hope. But is hope enough to mend a broken world? Links with the RESPECT unit on Human Rights
You Kant Make it up	Drawing on the writings of the great philosophers, this unconventional introduction to philosophy will challenge your assumptions, expand your horizons, infuriate, entertain and amuse you. Links to KS4 Philosophy and Ethics, encourages pupils to be curious and to develop critical thinking skills.
The Philosopher Queens	For anyone who has wondered where the women philosophers are, or anyone curious about the history of ideas it's time to meet the philosopher queens. Links to KS4 Philosophy and Ethics and the GCSE theme of gender equality
Sophie's World *	When 14-year-old Sophie encounters a mysterious mentor who introduces her to philosophy, mysteries deepen in her own life. Links to KS4 Philosophy and Ethics, encourages pupils to be curious and to develop critical thinking skills.
A history of God	The idea of a divine being has existed for over 4,000 years. But the history of God is also the history of human struggle. While religions proclaim the goodness of God, organised religion has too often been the catalyst for violence and ineradicable prejudice. Links to GCSE themes of Equality and Peace and Conflict
Pilgrim's Progress (retold) *	The story of a man named Christian who leaves his home in the City of Destruction and begins a life-long quest to the Celestial City. Christian's adventures lead him into fascinating lands and encounters with interesting people who either help or hinder his progress along a narrow way. Links to GCSE Christianity
The Poisonwood Bible	This story is told by the wife and four daughters of Nathan Price, an evangelical Baptist who takes his family and mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959.

Links to GCSE topic of mission and evangelism

And the Mountains Echoed	A story of the bonds that define us and shape our lives, the ways in which we help our loved ones in need, how the choices we make resonate through history and how we are often surprised by the people closest to us. Links to GCSE topic of Relationships and Families
The Screwtape Letters	Written as a series of letters, this novel explores Christian beliefs about temptation and the presence of evil in the world. Links to GCSE Christianity and Philosophy topic – the Problem of Evil
The Life of Pi *	After their ship sinks, a solitary lifeboat remains bobbing on the ocean. The only survivors are a sixteen-year-old boy, a hyena, a zebra, a orang-utan, and a Bengal tiger. This story raises questions about the nature of reality and how it is perceived and told. Links to GCSE topic of the nature of reality
Never Let Me Go	As children, Ruth, Kathy and Tommy spend their childhood at a seemingly idyllic English boarding school. As they grow into adults, they become aware of the truth about their past and the purpose of their existence. Links to GCSE topic of potential ethical conflicts and the RESPECT unit on the sanctity of human life
Me Before You	Lou learns that Will plans to go to Dignitas in Switzerland for assisted suicide, as he is unable to accept a disabled life. Lou takes it upon herself to change his mind and show him that life is still worth living. Links to GCSE topic of potential ethical conflicts and the RESPECT unit on the sanctity of human life
My Sister's Keeper	In all thirteen years of Anna's life, her parents have never given her a choice: she was born to be a 'saviour sibling' – to be her sister Kate's bone marrow donor. Links to GCSE topic of potential ethical conflicts and the RESPECT unit on the sanctity of human life
Change of Heart	With one senseless act, Shay Bourne left June Nealon widowed and alone to care for her daughter Claire. Now, as he sits on death row, Shay has one final request. He wishes to donate his heart to Claire and save the young girl's life. Links to GCSE topic of potential ethical conflicts and the Christianity topic of forgiveness
The Thread	The Thread is a story of a friendship and love that endures through the catastrophes and upheavals of the twentieth century - from fire to civil war to Nazi brutality and economic collapse. Links to GCSE topic of pluralism and living in a multifaith society
Angels and Demons *	Desperate to save the Vatican from a powerful time bomb, Robert Langdon joins forces in Rome with the mysterious scientist Vittoria Vetra. Together they embark on a frantic hunt through sealed crypts, dangerous catacombs, deserted cathedrals, and the most secretive vault on earth. Links to GCSE Christianity unit – history of the Church
Hate *	A novel inspired by the real-life murder of Sophie Lancaster. Eve is the sister of murdered Rosie; Anthony is a by-stander and witness to the murder. Links to GCSE Christianity topic of forgiveness and reconciliation