RPE - Medium Term Plan - Year 9, Unit 2 - Why does suffering exist?

Year group: 9	**Why does suffering exist?**
Prior learning - linked to National curriculum	**Previously**, students will have encountered the concept of suffering as they have journeyed through each of the six major world religions in Year 7 & Year 8. Specifically, the Year 7 units on Abrahamic religions place an emphasis on the idea that many biblical stories centre around narratives of suffering and redemption as key to the relationship between God and His people. Layered on top of that, their study of Dharmic faiths in Year 8 includes the study of dharmic concepts including karma, samsara and moksha in addition to ideas pertinent to individuals faiths, e.g. the Four Noble Truths (Buddhism). Furthermore, in the first unit of study in Year 9, students are introduced to David Hume's, 'The Problem of Evil', which focussed on the concept of suffering as an unassailable critique of God's omnibenevolence. Students therefore, should come to this unit with a tremendous amount of prior learning.
Rationale	**This unit has been chosen to ensure that** students are given the opportunity to meaningfully engage with the concept of suffering as well as being made aware of how religious people attempt to navigate it. Year 9 is a critical and challenging year for students, as social dynamics continue to intensify and many find that their own journey through adolescence brings additional elements of discomfort and suffering. Therefore, in addition to learning they receive in the classroom, presenting this unit at this point in Year 9 means students will have much more to offer in terms of their own thoughts and experiences. In that content, this unit seeks to provide students with an awareness of a) the concept of suffering is a universal experience and b) the mechanisms and rationale that many religious people use in order to navigate their own suffering as well as suffering experienced by others in the world around them.
Vocabulary:	**Keywords:** Suffer, Sin, Evil, Temptation, Punish, Theodicy, Enlightenment, Desire, Middle Way, Karma
SEND	Introducing SENDsational 6
Cultural Capital:	**This unit** brings with it the ability to talk about suffering as a global experience. As stated in 'rationale' it allows students to understand that suffering is a hugely complex issue that people face across the globe. Whether visible or invisible, there is an extent to which we all suffer and this unit opens a conversation to discuss both religious and non-religious philosophies on what we mean by suffering, how it's caused and what we might be able to do about it. Closer to home, this unit includes time for debate around the types of suffering being experienced in our local community, as well as at county and national level. We also investigate the view of lawmakers and politicians when it comes to suffering, introducing the ideas of Utilitarian and Kantian Ethics as systems that attempt to reduce suffering.
Key assessments- name the assessments	1) End of unit assessment (Spring Term) 2) End of year assessment (Summer Term)