RE topics and key questions 2019 - 2020

Who are we?

- Who and what is special to me? (People, places, experiences, feelings, stories, objects, beliefs, values)
- Who and what supports and guides us? (People, experiences, feelings, beliefs, values, ideas)
- What makes us joyful, peaceful, wonder, reflective, happy and sad? (Experiences, places, celebrations, stories, songs and, for some people, prayers)
- How might stories, prayers, songs, etc help us understand more about ourselves and ideas of God?

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Why are some times special?

- What special times and seasons can I remember? Why were these times special?
- Why are some festivals and celebrations special?
- When do they happen?
- What do they remember?
- What do people do and why?
- What special objects might be used in festivals and celebrations?
- How might some stories and practices associated with religious and other festivals and celebrations relate to experiences and feelings in our own lives?

Driver: Why are some stories special?

- What stories and books are special to me and my family?
- What stories and books are special to people within religions and beliefs?
- How are stories told and books used within religions and beliefs?
- What do some stories and books say about how people should live?

Year 1

How do we celebrate our journey through life?

- How do people celebrate the important events in their lives? (Birth, naming ceremonies, coming of age, joining a group, marriage, death)
- How do members of a religious faith celebrate these milestones in the journey of life?
- What artefacts, symbols and ceremonies are used at significant times?
- Why are some times in life significant or special?

Where do we belong?

- Where do I belong (feelings/experiences)
- What is special about belonging to a family or community?
- Where do people belong? (Family, local community, group, club, place, country, faith)
- What do people do that shows they belong to a belief or faith community?
- How might ideas of family and community be reflected in our own lives

Driver: Why are some places special?

- What places are special to me? Why are they special?
- What places are special to members of a religious or belief community? (Buildings used for worship, special places in the home)
- What do the buildings that are special to religious or belief communities look like?
- Do they have special places, objects, pictures or symbols?
- How are these used?
- What do they tell us about what people believe?

Year 2

How should we live our lives?

- How does what I do affect other people?
- What rules and codes of behaviour help me know what to do?
- What values are important to me, and how can I show them in how I live? (Fairness, honesty, forgiveness, kindness)?



• How do some stories from religions and beliefs and the example set by some people show me what to do?

Why is our world special?

- How do I feel about the natural world? (e.g. wonder, amazement, mystery, worry, sadness)?
- What do songs, poems, prayers and stories say about God as the Creator?
- What different ways can I use to show what I think and believe about our world?
- How do people show they care / don't care about our world?

Driver: What can we learn from the life and teaching of Jesus/What does it mean to belong to a religion (Christianity)?

- Who is Jesus and what does it mean to follow him today?
- What did Jesus teach about:
- Love; Sin, Forgiveness and redemption; Revenge and peace/reconciliation; Greed and giving; Making a difference; Prayer; Faith and hope; Life after death?
- What do the narratives of Jesus' miracles tell us about some of the big questions of life?
- Why might Christmas, Lent and Easter be important to ourselves as well as (other) Christians?
- How do Christians celebrate and live out their beliefs in:

the journey of life?

their main festivals and practices?

their faith communities?

the wider world?

• Within the different Christian groups what are the most important similarities and key differences? Why do they differ? How do they seek to work together?

What is important to me?

- Who am I and what does it mean to be human? (Physical and non-physical aspects of human identity)?
- Where do I belong? (My school, home, family, tradition, cultures, organisations including those involving religion and belief, local community, the UK, the global community)?
- What am I worth? (Beliefs about the value of human beings)?
- How might stories, hymns, prayers etc help people understand more about themselves and their relationships?

Driver: What does it mean to belong to a religion (Hinduism)?

• How do members of this faith celebrate and live out their beliefs in:

the journey of life?

their main festivals and practices?

their faith communities?

the wider world?

• Within the different groups of this faith what are the most important similarities and key differences? Why do they differ? How do they seek to work together?

Year 4

Year 3

Why do religious books and teachings matter?

- What different kinds of writing and story are there that are important to religions and beliefs?
- Where do the most special kinds of writings and stories come from?
- How do communities show that they value special books and writings?
- What are the moral messages that can be found in stories from religions and beliefs?
- How can I best express my beliefs and ideas?

Why are some journeys and places special?

• Why do some people believe that some places are special?



- Why do people go on pilgrimage and special journeys?
- What practices and events are associated with pilgrimage and special journeys?
- What artistic, symbolic and other expressive work is associated with special journeys and places?
- How might we make a record of the impact on ourselves of the journey we make and the places we visit?

Driver: What does it mean to belong to a religion (Judaism)?

- How do members of this faith celebrate and live out their beliefs in:
- i. the journey of life?
 - ii. their main festivals and practices?
 - iii. their faith communities?
 - iv. the wider world?
- Within the different groups of this faith what are the most important similarities and key differences? Why do they differ? How do they seek to work together?

How do we make moral choices?

- What are moral guestions?
- What are the consequences of the moral choices we make?
- What people and organisations help in making moral choices?
- What are the most important moral values and teachings?
- How do we decide what is right and wrong?

What do people believe about life?

- What feelings do people experience in relation to change and death?
- What answers might be given by ourselves and by religions and beliefs to questions about:

the origin and meaning of life?

our place in society and the natural world?

the existence of God?

the experience of suffering?

life after death?

Driver: What does it mean to belong to a religion (Islam)?

- How do members of this faith celebrate and live out their beliefs in:
- i. the journey of life?
 - ii. their main festivals and practices?
 - iii. their faith communities?
 - iv. the wider world?
- Within the different groups of this faith what are the most important similarities and key differences? Why do they differ? How do they seek to work together?

Year 6

Year 5

How do people express their beliefs, identity and experience?

- How do people express their beliefs, identity and experiences using signs, symbols and the wider arts, e.g. art, buildings, dance, drama, music, painting, poetry, ritual, and story? Why do some people of faith not use the arts to represent certain things?
- How and why are 'universal' symbols like colour, light, darkness, wind, sound, water, fire and silence used in religions and beliefs?
- Why are the arts really important for some religions and beliefs?

How might I express my ideas, feelings and beliefs in a variety of different ways?

How should we live and who can inspire us?

- What positive examples have people given that show us how to live?
- What values and commitments have inspired or been taught by founders of faith or communities, leaders, believers and specific communities?
- How have actions and examples of people of faith or belief changed our world?
- How might we change our lives in the light of the qualities demonstrated by other people?