

Topic: RE: Learning about Religion	Year group	Term Spring
The meaning of signs and symbols	Year 4	6 sessions

Background knowledge

Children learn about some of the possible or intended meaning of different signs and symbols. Children will consider different religious symbols, including symbolic language, used to express perceptions of God and aspects of faith. Exploring the meaning of the symbols of those who use them. Children will investigate examples of symbolic language to deepen their understanding of important religious concepts.

That symbols and symbolism is important because of the meaning they convey and beliefs they represent.

children have:

- explored examples of actions, colours and clothes in everyday life which express feelings or ideas
- identified possible meanings of some everyday signs and symbols
- heard and discussed stories which convey meanings beyond the literal eg fables or parables
- explored some examples of figurative language and discovered that they are nonsense if taken literally

Key idea: That symbols and symbolism are important to religious people as a means of understanding, meaning and beliefs.

What should I already know?

I can describe what a believer might learn from a religious story.

I can describe some of the things that are the same and different for religious people.

I can investigate different religions where I live and around the world.

I can use religious words to describe some of the different ways people show their beliefs.

I can explore religious artefacts with respect and learn from them.

I can ask important questions about life and compare my ideas with those of other people.

R.E. Agreed Syllabus / Key Skills	The Journey
To describe the key aspects of religions, especially the people, stories and traditions that influence the beliefs and values of others. To describe the variety of practices and ways of life in religions and understand how these stem from, and are closely connected with, beliefs and teachings. To investigate the significance of religion in local, national and global communities. To use specialist vocabulary in communicating their knowledge and understanding. To use and interpret information about religions from a range of sources. Talk about meanings contained in stories, objects and signs. I can relate the idea of a symbol as a reminder of something special to my own experience. I can explain literal and non-literal meanings and use similes to describe emotions and talk about how metaphors can describe beliefs. I can talk about some characteristics which come from God in Christianity, Hinduism and Judaism. I can identify symbolic actions and suggest their meanings.	1. Know that signs and symbols are important to humans because they convey meaning. 2. Know that words are symbols which can have literal and non-literal meanings. 3. Know that metaphors are often used to convey religious meanings and need to be interpreted carefully. 4. Know that language used to describe God and the nature of God is used symbolically. 5. Know that religious beliefs and ideas about God can be expressed in a variety of forms, including symbolism. 6. Know about some common symbols used by Christians to express beliefs about God and/or Jesus.

I can compare and contrast the ways in which ideas about God are expressed symbolically in Christianity, Hinduism and Judaism.

I can identify and understand the significance and meanings of some common Christian symbols.

I can talk about how signs and symbols are used in religious belief and why they are important.

Outcomes

An overview of what children will know / can do

Working towards: Describe and suggest meanings for some religious symbols, gestures and words. Start to discuss some possible meanings for different symbols. Begin to understand that not all language should be taken literally.

Expected: Identify some key religious symbols and some symbolic actions in a religious context. Talk about some of the beliefs or ideas which underlie the religious symbols. Discuss the possible meanings of some examples of symbolic language, e.g. words or phrases used by believers to describe God.

Exceeding: identify similar beliefs and ideas expressed symbolically in other religious or secular contexts, e.g. through symbols, actions or words.

Key Vocabulary

literal - taking words in their usual or most basic sense without metaphor or exaggeration.

metaphors - A metaphor is a figure of speech that is used to make a comparison between two things that aren't alike but do have something in common. ... A metaphor uses this similarity to help the writer make a point: Her tears were a river flowing down her cheeks.

Similes - a figure of speech comparing two unlike things using like or as "Their cheeks are like roses" is a simile. "Their cheeks are roses" is a metaphor.

Signs and symbols - A religious symbol is an iconic representation intended to represent a specific religion, or a specific concept within a given religion. The difference between a symbol and a sign is that a symbol can convey a deeper and more complex meaning than a sign. A sign is an indicator or marker for something very specific, very concrete and, in general, unambiguous in meaning.

e.g.



Timeline / Diagrams



Important people or places

God

Noah's ark - rainbows - dove - olive branch

Judaism - Moses - Passover - seder plate

Hinduism - symbolism of prayer and worship

Islam - symbolism of prayer and worship

Christianity - Symbols to describe Jesus - Symbols inside a church

Assessment questions / outcomes

What is the difference between a sign and a symbol?

How and why do we use symbols in everyday life?

How is language used symbolically in religion and why?

What are the most important symbols in the religions studied and what meanings do they have?

What do I understand about the use of symbols and symbolism in religion?

Can you describe some religious symbols?