

Religious Education Vocabulary Progression Map

Curriculum Intent

Pupils develop a rich and increasingly sophisticated religious vocabulary that enables them to explore beliefs, practices, values, identity, community and worldviews. Vocabulary is carefully sequenced from EYFS through to Year 6 so that pupils can discuss religions and worldviews with confidence, accuracy and respect.

Curriculum Implementation

Key vocabulary is explicitly taught, revisited and applied through enquiry, discussion, storytelling, artefacts, visits and reflection. Vocabulary is mapped progressively to support the development of substantive knowledge and disciplinary understanding in Religious Education.

Curriculum Impact

By the end of Key Stage 2, pupils confidently use subject-specific vocabulary to explain beliefs, practices and traditions, compare religions and worldviews, ask thoughtful questions and express their own informed views respectfully.

Vocabulary Progression by Year Group

Year Group	Core Vocabulary
Nursery	family, community, celebration, special, caring, sharing, world, nature, Christmas, Easter, church, belonging
Reception	community, worship, celebration, faith, care, respect, kindness, symbol, special place, environment
Year 1	prayer, worship, Bible, Qur'an, Torah, Guru Granth Sahib, commandment, neighbour, compassion, meditation, reflection, choice, faith
Year 2	festival, harvest, gratitude, Ramadan, Eid, Sukkot, Diwali, belonging, symbol, christening, naming ceremony, Aqiqah, worship, mosque, synagogue, gurdwara, mandir

Year 3	guru, scripture, spirituality, covenant, parable, values, belief, symbolism, inspiration, community, tradition
Year 4	pilgrimage, devotion, commitment, expression, worship, sacred, enlightenment, morality, responsibility, reflection
Year 5	covenant, incarnation, Messiah, salvation, dharma, karma, moksha, sewa, commitment, pilgrimage, rights of passage, tolerance
Year 6	reconciliation, forgiveness, resurrection, diversity, worldview, ethics, stewardship, justice, faith community, denomination, spirituality, interpretation

Vocabulary Progression by Strand

Believing

EYFS: God, special, story, celebration

KS1: faith, belief, prayer, worship, scripture

LKS2: guru, covenant, spirituality, symbolism

UKS2: incarnation, Messiah, salvation, worldview, interpretation

Belonging

EYFS: family, community, sharing

KS1: belonging, symbol, welcome

LKS2: identity, commitment, tradition

UKS2: faith community, denomination, diversity

Living

EYFS: kindness, caring, helping

KS1: choice, responsibility, compassion

LKS2: values, morality, service

UKS2: ethics, justice, stewardship, reconciliation

Expressing

EYFS: celebration, special place

KS1: festival, worship, prayer

LKS2: spirituality, symbolism, devotion

UKS2: pilgrimage, reflection, interpretation

End of Key Stage 2 Vocabulary Expectations

Religion, worldview, belief, worship, prayer, scripture, covenant, pilgrimage, spirituality, commitment, diversity, denomination, forgiveness, reconciliation, incarnation, Messiah, salvation, dharma, karma, moksha, sewa, ethics, justice, stewardship, community, respect and tolerance.

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