



Religious Education Learning Journey



Subject Rationale:

Religious Education topics are taught in accordance with the New Tower Hamlets Agreed Syllabus (2017-2022). The new syllabus has been created by the SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education). It provides the structures and support systems that will enable the teaching of RE in a manner that is coherent, progressive, pedagogically and philosophically sound, and that will promote the cognitive, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of all learners. Our curriculum is underpinned by our 'Big Ideas' for RE. The children's understanding of these key concepts and ideas is deepened as they progress through our school.

The principal aim of RE is to engage pupils in systematic enquiry into significant human questions which religion and worldviews address, so that they can develop the knowledge and skills needed to appreciate and appraise varied responses to these questions, as well as develop responses of their own.

Children's knowledge acquisition is supported by the use of knowledge organisers and opportunities for retrieval practice to help them to remember what they have learned.

R.E. 'Big Ideas'



afterlife

A life that some people believe begins when you die.



atheism

The belief that there is no God.



belief

A feeling of certainty that something exists, is true, or is good.



celebration

The action of celebrating an important day or event.



compassion

A feeling of pity, sympathy and understanding for someone who is suffering.



creation

The making of the universe, Earth, and creatures by God.



faith

Strong religious belief in a particular God.



gratitude

The state of feeling grateful and thankful.



holy

Something or someone that it is considered to be special because it is connected with God or a particular religion.



obedience

The act of obeying; dutiful behaviour.



monotheism

The belief that there is only one God.



forgiveness

If you show forgiveness, you forgive someone for something wrong that they have done.



prophet

A person who is believed to be chosen by God to say the things that God wants to tell people.



prayer

The activity of speaking to God.



sacred

Something connected with religion or used in religious ceremonies.



sacrifice

To give up something that is important or valuable to you.



values

The moral principles and beliefs or accepted standards of a person or group of people.



worship

How people show their respect to God or Gods.

Progression of Big Ideas

Big Idea	EYFS	KS1	KS2
Afterlife		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus in heaven (Y1) Death & resurrection of Jesus (Y2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easter Sunday service (Y3) Write the resurrection story from the perspective of another character (Y4) Reincarnation (Y4) Muslim & Christian beliefs in judgement and heaven (Y6) Christian funeral and belief about life after death (Y6)
Atheism		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Golden rule (Y2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Humanism (Y3/6) Non-religious funeral service (Y6) Non-religious wedding ceremony (Y4)
Belief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christian beliefs about Jesus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christian beliefs about God & Jesus (Y1) Christian symbols & images used to express beliefs about God (Y1) What happens at a Church? (Y1) Mosque? (Y2) 99 names of Allah (Y2) Children's own beliefs about God (Y1/2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How Christians show their beliefs in Church & through hymns/songs of worship (Y3/5) Beliefs about Jesus as an inspiring leader (Y4/5) Anglican & Baptist beliefs (Y5) Functions of the Mosque linked to key Muslim beliefs (Y5/6) Beliefs about Allah – calligraphy, poetry and art (Y6) Key Hindu beliefs about God, Lakshmi, 4 stages of life, karma & how Gandhi's life reflects those beliefs (Y4/6)
Celebration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diwali Christmas Hannukah Welcoming babies: baptism & aqiqah Continuous Provision Nativity play/Christmas songs Birthdays, wedding, Eid, harvest, EYFS graduation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shabbat (Y2) Passover (Y2) What happens at a baptism? (Y1) Easter (Y2) How are babies welcomed in Islam? (Y1) Eid-ul-Fitr (Y2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passover (Y3) Bar/Bat Mitzvah (Y4) Infant baptism & believers baptism (Y4) Holy week services (Y3/4/5/6) Eid-ul-Fitr & Eid-ul-Adha (Y3/6) Diwali (Y3/4) Hindu naming ceremony (Y4) Hindu thread ceremony (Y4) Wedding ceremonies (Y4)
Compassion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Story of Muhammad and the crying camel Story of Muhammad and the kittens How do we care for animals/the world? Continuous Provision Circle time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What the Bible says about treating others kindly (Y2) The Lost Son (Y1) / The Good Samaritan (Y2) Caring for animals (Y2) Helping people who are treated unfairly (Y2) Jewish obligation – Tzedekah (Y2) Inspiring people, e.g. Mother Theresa (Y2) Why places of worship are important to the community (Y1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quran teachings about charity (Y6) How did Jesus teach his followers to love? (Y5) Muslim, Christian & Hindu charities (Y5/6) How places of worship support community projects / people in times of need (Y3/5/6) Why do non-religious people support the community?
Creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The story of creation from Genesis 1 A class of creators – make special creations Continuous Provision Junk modelling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Genesis 2 (Y2) Allah the Creator (Y2) God's creations (people, animals, the world...) (Y2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brahma the Creator (Y3) Creations of Allah (Y3)
Forgiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What can we do to show we are sorry? Do we like saying sorry or not? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> God is forgiving (Y1) The Lost Sheep (Y1) The Boy who threw stones at trees: what helps to forgive? (Y2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What do Jesus' parables teach about forgiveness? (Y4/5) How is the Christian cross a symbol of forgiveness? (Y5) Impact of following Jesus' teaching of forgiveness in the modern world (Y5) Muslim pilgrimage (Y5/6)
Gratitude	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nature activities and what they appreciate Harvest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus and the Ten Lepers (Y1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How and why Christians show gratitude to Jesus (Y3/4) Why Muslims should be thankful to Allah (Y5/6)
Obedience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promise poems The parable of the two sons Continuous Provision School & class rules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The story of Jonah (Y1) Wedding vows (Y1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Religious commitments and impact on life (Y3/4/5/6) Hindu duties in life (Y4/5/6) Why do Muslims fast? (Y3/5) Muslim forms of guidance: Quran, Sunnah and Hadiths (Y5/6) Muslim positions in prayer (Y5) Are Jesus' teachings still relevant today? (Y4/5/6)
Monotheism		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief introduction to the Trinity (Y1) Meaning of the Shahadah & 99 names of Allah (Y2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Trinity (Y3/6) Hindu God Brahman represented in different ways (Y3/4) Beliefs about God based on the 99 names (Y3/6) The Shahadah (Y3) and how it affects the life of a Muslim (Y5)
Prophet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What makes a good messenger? Story of Prophet Muhammad's first revelation Muhammad as a role model 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prophet Muhammad as an inspiring leader (Y2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life of the prophet Muhammad (Y5/6) What do stories about teach us about the Prophet Muhammad? (Y5/6) Importance of the Prophet Muhammad – Shahadah (Y3/5)
Prayer		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Lord's Prayer (Y1) How the Bible is used in prayer (Y1) Modern Christian prayer activities (Y1) Shabbat prayer (Y2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How different artefacts help people pray (Y3/4/5) How and why Muslims pray (Y5/6) Funeral prayer (Y6) Family & private prayers (Y3) Alternative ways of Christian worship: silence, nature, community, art (Y3/5)
Sacred	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our Special Books Stories & artwork in children's Bible Introduce the Torah 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bible – Old Testament' and 'New Testament' (Y1) How the Bible helps Christians to live their lives (Y1) Special places for believers (Y1) Visit a Church (Y1) & Mosque (Y2) How the Quran is a guide (Y2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How holy books provide guidance (Y5) What makes places of worship sacred? (Y5/6)
Sacrifice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous Provision Sharing / taking turns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ramadan (Y2) Jesus' sacrifice (Y2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does fasting make you a better person? (Y3/5) Eid-ul-Adha – story of Prophet Ibrahim and Qurbani (Y6) The events of Jesus' crucifixion (Y3/4) Research the life of a Christian & their sacrifice (Martin Luther King, Mother Teresa...)(Y3/5/6)

Big ideas that run throughout all year groups:

faith holy values worship

R.E. Learning Journey



Y6

What difference does it make to believe in harmlessness, grace and community?

Is it better to express your beliefs in arts and architecture or in charity and generosity?

What do religions say to us when life gets hard?

What would Jesus do? Can people live by the values of Jesus in the twenty-first century?

If God is everywhere, why go to a place of worship?

What does it mean to be a Muslim in Britain today?

Y5

Why do some people think that life is a journey and what significant experiences mark this?

Why is Jesus inspiring to some people?

Y4

What does it mean to be a Hindu in Britain today?

What do different people believe about God?

Why are festivals important to religious communities?

Y3

How and why do we celebrate special and sacred times?

What does it mean to be a Christian in Britain today?

Y2

How should we care for others and the world, and why does it matter?

Who is a Muslim and what do they believe?

What makes some places sacred?

Y1

Who is a Christian and what do they believe?

What does it mean to belong to a faith community?

Which stories are special and why?

Where do we belong?

What is special about our world?

Which times are special and why?

EYFS



welcome

Glossary

Anglican	Origins and traditions are linked to the Church of England Babies are baptised to welcome them to the church family and ask God to protect them Holy Communion occurs every week and is the most important part of the week, where the congregation connect most closely with God
Aqiqah	The act of sacrificing an animal to mark a child's birth, ideally performed seven days after the birth of the child
Baptist	Adults are baptised when they are ready to commit to Christ by full immersion in water The 'Lord's Supper' occurs a few times a year and is not considered essential worship, but a way of remembering Jesus' sacrifice
Bar Mitzvah	Son of Commandment. A Jewish boy's coming of age at 13 years old, usually marked by a synagogue ceremony and family celebration
Bat Mitzvah	Daughter of Commandment. As above, but for girls from 12 years old
Eid-ul-Adha	The Muslim Festival of Sacrifice, also known as the greater Eid
Eid-ul-Fitr	Muslim celebration of the end of Ramadan
Hadith	The sayings of the Prophet Muhammad; these are a major source of Islamic law
Karma	Hindu belief in the intentional actions that determines one's next reincarnation
Lakshmi	Hindu goddess of fortune
Qurbani	A sacrifice offered by Muslims to reflect the Prophet Ibrahim's willingness to sacrifice his son Ismail, for the sake of God. At least one third of the meat must go to the poor
Reincarnation	The Hindu belief that the soul never dies and repeatedly takes on a different body until it is one with God
Shahadah	Muslim declaration of faith – "There is no god but Allah, Muhammad is the messenger of Allah"
Sunnah	Model practices, customs and traditions of the Prophet Muhammad that Muslims use as examples of how they should live
Tzedekah	An act of charity and literally means righteousness'. Jewish people traditionally give 10% of their income to charity

Stories of Faith

Muhammad and the Crying Camel (EYFS)

While the Prophet Muhammad was walking on a very hot day he saw a crying camel tied in the sunshine. Muhammad wanted to know who owned the camel and reminded the owner that the camel was one of Allah's creatures. The animal worked hard, carrying heavy loads and travelling to places. The camel owner felt ashamed that he had been cool and comfortable while the camel was hot and bothered. (Moral: all Allah's creations are important and need to be cared for. The Prophet took special care for animals and all his followers should do the same).

Muhammad and the Kittens (EYFS)

The Prophet Muhammad was sitting in the shade of a date-palm tree wearing a long cloak which covered the ground. When he stood up he noticed a cat had brought her kittens and placed them on a corner of his cloak. He asked for a knife and carefully cut around his cloak where the cat and her kittens were lying, walking away quietly without disturbing them. (Moral: all Allah's creations are important and need to be cared for. The Prophet took special care for animals and all his followers should do the same).

Prophet Muhammad's Revelation (EYFS/Y2/5)

The Qur'an which is believed to be the literal word of God, was revealed to Prophet Muhammad by the Angel Gabriel in a cave. This happened when Muhammad was 40 years old who memorized the words because he could not read.

The Lost Sheep (Y1)

A shepherd leaves his flock of 99 sheep in order to find the one which is lost (Moral: This parable was told in response to Jesus being criticised and attacked by the religious leaders for "eating with sinners". It illustrates the love and compassion that God has because he seeks out the lost sinner.

Jesus and the Ten Lepers (Y1)

Jesus went into a village and was met by ten men suffering from leprosy. Jesus tells them to go and see the priests and on their way there they are healed. However, only one man returned to thank Jesus showing the most faith and thankfulness towards Jesus. (Moral: Christians should express their gratitude to God).

The Story of Jonah (Y1)

God told Jonah to go to Nineveh to tell the people living there to lead better lives but Jonah boarded a ship going the opposite direction. A storm was sent by God and Jonah was thrown overboard and swallowed by a whale. He spent three days in the whale's stomach praying for forgiveness, going straight to Nineveh to deliver God's message when he was free. (Moral: it is important to ask for forgiveness and God forgives all those who truly repent).

The Lost Son (Y1/6)

A farmer who has two sons divides his wealth. One son stays to work on the family farm, the other leaves the family home and returns a year later, penniless. He intends to beg his father to accept him back as a servant but to his surprise, his father welcomes him with compassion, much to the annoyance of the son who stayed to work. Christians believe that God looks after them like a loving father who never gives up on anyone. (Moral: The father is just like God who doesn't give up on anyone and will always forgive if Christians truly change and repent).

The Boy who threw stones at Trees (Y2)

There was a boy who loved fresh dates and threw stones at the trees, trying to get dates. The farmer who owned the trees noticed there were fewer fruits each day so he decided to watch the trees for a whole day and saw the boy throwing stones and trying to steal dates. The farmer didn't know what to do with the boy and decided to take him to Prophet Muhammad who talked very quietly to the boy. This helped the farmer to forgive the boy because Muhammad shows him how to think about the situation. (Moral: to not react in anger).

The Good Samaritan (Y2/6)

A traveller is beaten up, robbed and left for dead along the road. He is ignored by a series of passers-by, including a priest who deliberately avoids the man. Finally a Samaritan helps the injured man in an act of compassion.

Moses and the Burning Bush (Y3)

When Moses grew up he killed an Egyptian man who was beating a Hebrew and ran away to the desert. One day Moses was in the desert and noticed a burning bush that didn't burn up. As he moved closer, he heard the voice of God speaking to him from the bush instructing him to go back to Egypt and lead his people, the Jews, out of slavery and to freedom. God proved to Moses that it really was Him by turning a staff into a snake, and then back again. Although Moses felt scared he agreed and returned to Egypt to tell Pharaoh that he must free the Jewish slaves.

Saint Paul's Conversion (Y3)

Paul was a hater of Christians and a persecutor, who travelled 170 miles to capture Christians and put them in prison. As he was arriving, he fell from his horse, 'struck' by a light, and heard Jesus speak to him. This is the moment that changed Paul from being a hate-filled persecutor to a man who started 22 churches and wrote 13 books of the Bible.

Rama and Sita (Y3)

Rama was the son of a great King, and was expected to become King himself one day. However his stepmother wanted her own son to become King, and tricked her husband into banishing Rama and his wife Sita to live in the forest. Rama's brother Lakshman went with them to live in a forest. One day a golden deer ran by and Sita asked Rama and Lakshman to catch it. Rama chased the deer but this was a trick to get Rama away from Sita who had been taken to a remote island by the ten-headed Ravanda. Rama sought the help of Hanuman, the monkey army general, to rescue Sita. The village put lamps in their windows to light the way for Rama and Sita who were crowned King and Queen.

Passover (Y3)

For many years the Jewish people were treated cruelly as slaves. They were ruled by the pharaoh of Egypt who would not let them leave. God sent down plagues which included a plague of frogs, turning the water to blood, hailstones and wild animals. Under the threat of each plague the Pharaoh said the Jewish people could leave, but when the plague had gone he changed his mind. The final plague was the death of the first born son. God told the Jewish people to mark their doorposts with lamb's blood so the plague would 'pass over' their houses. Pharaoh agreed for Moses and his people to go at once. The Pharaoh changed his mind yet again and sent his army. God parted the sea so the Jewish people could get to safety and washed pharaoh's army away.

The Parable of the Two Builders (Y4)

Jesus said "therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash".

Jesus feeds 5000 (Y4)

Jesus often liked to spend time alone to pray. Crowds followed him on foot and Jesus always had compassion and welcomed them. As evening approached, the disciples told Jesus to send the crowds away as they only had five loaves of bread and two fish. Jesus took the loaves and fish and looked up to heaven, gave thanks and broke the loaves. Five thousand people ate and were satisfied. The 12 disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.

Jesus walks on water (Y4)

Jesus told his disciples to go ahead of him by boat to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. When evening came the boat was already a long way from land. Shortly before dawn Jesus walked on the lake and went out to the disciples. When they saw him they were terrified and cried out in fear "It's a ghost!" Jesus called out to them, "Be brave! It is I. Don't be afraid". Peter questioned Jesus and asked if it really was him. Jesus invited Peter to walk on the water with him and as soon as Peter got scared of the wind and took his eyes off Jesus he began to sink. Jesus grabbed Peter's hand and climbed back into the boat. The storm stopped.

The Unforgiving servant (Y4/5)

Peter asked Jesus about forgiveness – "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy seven times." He told a parable to explain. A man owed the king ten thousand talents. He could not pay so he begged for mercy and the king cancelled the debt. The man then met a fellow servant who owed him a hundred denarii. The man demanded payment and had his fellow servant thrown in prison when he could not pay. When the king heard about this, he handed him over to the jailers to be tortured. Christians believe they need to learn to forgive just as God shows grace to them or they will be judged.

Jesus' baptism (Y4)

Jesus was baptised as an adult. He went to John the Baptist while he was baptising people in the River Jordan. John tried to refuse to baptise Jesus saying that it was he, John, who should be baptised by Jesus. As soon as Jesus was baptised, he came up out of the water. Heaven was opened and he saw the spirit of God descending like a dove. Then a voice said from heaven, "This is my own dear son with whom I am pleased."

The Parable of the Two Debtors (Y5)

Simon, a Pharisee, had invited Jesus for a meal at his house. Jesus accepted Simon's invitation to eat with him and went to his house. A sinful woman found out that Jesus was visiting Simon and brought an expensive box of perfume. She stood weeping and washed the feet of Jesus with her tears, wiped his feet with her hair and anointed his feet with the expensive ointment. Simon witnessed this and said to himself – "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner." Jesus responded to Simon's thoughts and attitudes with a parable about debt forgiveness: The Parable of The Two Debtors.

The Widow's Generosity (Y5)

While Jesus was sitting in the temple he watched the rich people leaving gifts of money. Some gave large amounts as they liked to show off and wanted everyone watching to see how rich and generous they were. Jesus then spotted a poor widow making her way to the temple. Looking around to check no one saw her, she dropped two small coins into the collection box. Jesus explained that the widow had been more generous than anyone else because the rich people gave what they could easily afford but the coins she gave were all she had to buy food for that day.

The story of Jesus and Zacchaeus (Y5)

Zacchaeus was a wealthy tax collector of the city Jericho. He wasn't liked by people because he had taken some of the tax money to for himself. When Zacchaeus learned that Jesus was passing through the city he ran ahead of the crowd and climbed up into a sycamore tree to have a better view of Jesus as he was "short in stature". When Jesus arrived, he noticed Zacchaeus in the tree and said asked him to come down because Jesus wanted to stay at his house today. This made Zacchaeus happy but the crowd murmured in complaint as Jesus had chosen "to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." Zacchaeus said to Jesus "Behold, Lord, half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." Zacchaeus' actions reveal that his repentance and faith are genuine.

The story of Bilal (Y5)

Bilal was a black slave who was sold to a merchant. The merchant made a good living from selling idols in Mecca and when he heard Muhammad teaching about one god, Allah, and that all people were equal he was angry as he didn't believe a slave was equal to him. The merchant decided to test Muhammad's teachings and ordered Bilal to strike one of the Prophet's companions, firmly believing that a slave would not disobey his master. But Bilal had listened to Muhammad too, and he thought the Prophet was right. He dropped the whip and refused to do as he was told. The merchant had Bilal thrown in prison and his execution was ordered. In the bright light of day, Bilal was staked to the ground and beaten; heavy rocks were piled on him to crush his body. All that could be heard was Bilal's voice saying "One God, One God." Abu Bakr, a great friend of the Prophet was passing and heard Bilal. Moved by his voice and his cry of "One God, One God," Abu Bakr haggled with the merchant until he was able to buy Bilal and set him free. As a free man, Bilal became a close and dear friend to both Abu Bakr and Muhammad. He helped to build the first mosque in Medina.

The believers decided they did not want a flag, bell, rattle, drum or a trumpet, but a beautiful human voice to call the faithful to prayer. Abu Bakr said there was only one voice to use for the first call to prayer and explained how he had found Bilal and set him free. Bilal became the first to call people to prayer.

The story of the placing of the Black Stone (Y5)

A fight broke out in Mecca regarding who would position the Black Stone (a rock sent down by Allah to this earth from paradise) in its place in the Ka'ba. A respected man suggested that the next man to enter will be the one to place it or be the one to make the decision to settle the matter. The person to enter was the Prophet Muhammad and everyone was relieved to see him. He asked for a large sheet to be brought to him, put it on the ground, placed the Black Stone onto it and called for all the leaders of the tribes to hold the sheet and lift the stone together to the Ka'ba. The Prophet placed it into the final position.

The story of Ibrahim and Ismail (Y5)

Prophet Ibrahim was commanded by Allah to sacrifice his son Ismail. On his way to carry out this commandment, Satan repeatedly tried to dissuade Ibrahim from following this order by giving the argument of who would look after him in his old age. Ibrahim was instructed by the Angel Gabriel to throw pebbles at Satan. To commemorate Ibrahim's rejection of Satan, this incident has become a ritual performed during Hajj – seven stones are thrown at the three pillars which represent rejecting evil.

The Rich Young Ruler (Y6)

One day a young, rich ruler came to Jesus and asked him what he needed to do to live forever with God in heaven. Jesus told him to "keep the commandments: don't kill, don't steal, don't lie, and honour your parents." The young man told Jesus that he had been keeping all of these rules since he was a child. Jesus told him he needed to sell everything he owned and give all the money to the poor, then follow Jesus. The rich man heard a commandment that he couldn't keep – he loved his money and this was blocking the way to his relationship with God. The ruler chose money and as he walked away, Jesus told His disciples that it was really difficult for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven.