

Key end points for this unit include:

To know that:

- Belonging is when you feel happy and accepted as part of a group.
- Many religious people show they belong in different ways.
- Many Christians show they belong to their religion.
- Many Jewish people show they belong to their religion.
- Belonging is important in our school.

This unit introduces children to the concept of belonging and explores how belonging is expressed in personal life, Christianity, and Judaism, before applying this understanding to their school community. Belonging is a universal human experience, and by starting with children's own lives, the unit makes the concept accessible and meaningful. As the unit progresses, children learn that religious belonging can be shown in different ways—through places of worship, ceremonies, symbols, and values. The unit emphasises that not all people within a religion practise in the same way, encouraging respect for diversity and avoiding generalisations. By the end of the unit, children should understand that belonging is both personal and communal, and that it is expressed through actions, traditions, and values that help people feel accepted and connected. The final assessment consolidates this learning by asking children to reflect on what belonging means across contexts.

Lesson Sequence:

In lesson 1, Children are introduced to the concept of belonging as feeling happy, safe, and accepted in a group. They explore belonging in their own lives (family, school, clubs, friendships). Knowledge builds by establishing a foundation: belonging is a universal experience that everyone can relate to. This prepares children to understand belonging in religious contexts by first grounding it in their lived experience.

In lesson 2, children extend their understanding of belonging into religious contexts. They learn that people may show belonging through places of worship, prayer, clothing, symbols, festivals, or pilgrimages. Knowledge builds by introducing Christianity and Judaism together, highlighting similarities and differences. The emphasis on “some” or “many” ensures children understand diversity within religions. This lesson bridges personal belonging with religious belonging, setting up deeper exploration in subsequent lessons.

In lesson 3, children focus on Christianity, learning specific practices: attending church, baptism, wearing a cross, and living according to the Bible's teaching of love and kindness. Knowledge builds by moving from general religious belonging (Lesson 2) to detailed examples within one faith. Children

begin to connect outward signs (church, baptism, symbols) with inward values (kindness, love). This deepens understanding of how belonging is expressed both through actions and through living out beliefs.

Lesson 4 progresses to focus on Judaism, learning specific practices: attending synagogue, wearing a kippah, celebrating Shabbat, and taking part in festivals such as Passover and Hanukkah. Knowledge builds by applying the same structure used in Christianity to Judaism, reinforcing comparison and contrast. Children see that belonging is expressed through both weekly practices (Shabbat) and special festivals. This strengthens their ability to recognise patterns across religions while respecting differences.

During lesson 5, children apply their RE learning to their own school community. They explore how belonging is shown through uniform, rules, assemblies, kindness, and respect. Knowledge builds by connecting religious belonging (Christianity and Judaism) to everyday belonging in school. This lesson consolidates the concept of belonging as both religious and non-religious, helping children see the relevance of understanding religion to their own lives.

Lesson 6 is an opportunity to assess and check for understanding. The task suggested enables children to demonstrate their understanding of belonging across contexts. They reflect on personal belonging, Christian belonging, Jewish belonging, and belonging in school. The assessment checks children's ability to recall key vocabulary, describe practices, and explain why belonging matters. This final task ensures progression from description ("Christians go to church") to explanation ("Going to church helps Christians feel part of their community").

Key concepts explored in this unit include: belonging, community, kindness

Key vocabulary used in this unit include: belonging, community, kindness culture, Christian, church, baptism, Bible, Judaism, Synagogue, Kippah, Shabbat