

This unit introduces children to the concept of religious diversity within their immediate and wider communities, building on their KS1 knowledge of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. It is designed to foster respectful understanding, a sense of belonging, and recognition of shared values across faiths. Through local context, national data, and real-world examples, pupils explore how religion shapes community life and how people of different beliefs, and none, can live together within a community.

The unit is structured to move from the familiar (school) to the broader (local area and UK), before deepening understanding through the study of places of worship. Each lesson builds conceptually and contextually on the previous one, reinforcing vocabulary and values while introducing new knowledge in manageable steps. Teachers must adapt this unit to their own local context, decide which places of worship children will study (and ideally visit) and use maps/photos/videos of the local area to ensure this unit is meaningful and accessible for all children.

Lesson 1: Religion in Our School

Children explore the idea that religion is part of their school community. They learn that some people follow a religion and others do not, but all belong. The lesson introduces key concepts such as belief, diversity, and respect, using familiar school events and values to anchor understanding. This lesson builds on KS1 knowledge of religious festivals and leaders and sets a foundation for understanding religion as part of everyday life.

Lesson 2: Religion in Our Local Area

Extending the concept of community, children explore how religion is present in the wider local area. They learn about worship, traditions, and celebrations, and how religious communities contribute to society through charity and support. This lesson builds on Lesson 1 by applying the idea of community and belonging beyond the school gates, introducing local places of worship and shared values. Teachers can adapt this lesson as needed to reflect local context.

Lesson 3: Religion in the UK

Children learn that the UK is religiously diverse, with many people following different religions or none. Using census data, they explore national patterns of belief and are introduced to the concept of equality; everyone should be treated fairly regardless of belief. This lesson builds on Lessons 1 and 2 by scaling up from local to national context, it reinforces the concept of diversity and introduces data as a tool for understanding society.

Lesson 4: Places of Worship – Christianity

Children study a local church, learning about Christian worship, celebrations, and the role of the church in the community. If possible, plan a visit or virtual tour as this supports learning and helps children connect abstract ideas to real spaces. This lesson builds on prior knowledge of Christianity from KS1 and Lesson 2's introduction to places of worship. This lesson must be adapted for local context.

Lesson 5: Places of Worship – Other Faiths

Children explore places of worship from other religions (e.g. mosque, synagogue, mandir, gurdwara), depending on local context. They compare features, practices, and community roles, highlighting both distinctiveness and shared values. This lesson builds on Lesson 4 by broadening the scope to include multiple faiths. Reinforces vocabulary and values introduced earlier in the unit.

Lesson 6: Assessment and Reflection

Children consolidate their learning through extended writing, creative tasks, or collaborative presentations. They reflect on what they've learned about religion in their school, local area, and country, and how it shapes community life. Draws together all prior lessons. Encourages synthesis, personal reflection, and respectful understanding.

Key concepts: religion, belief, community, diversity, equality

Key vocabulary: religion, belief, community, diversity, respect, values, Local community, worship, tradition, celebration, belonging, United Kingdom, diversity, census, equality