



The Big Picture

This unit gives pupils the opportunity to revisit the story of Rama and Sita (they will have been introduced to this story in Y3) and to explore the theme of good overcoming evil – just as light overcomes darkness.

Pupils should deepen their understanding of Hindu beliefs about God by learning about Rama as an avatar of Vishnu. They should be able to connect this with the Diwali theme – Rama is a deity and therefore represents goodness. As an avatar of Vishnu, it is his role to uphold dharma and fight evil. This is exemplified in the story of Rama and Sita which is celebrated at Diwali. Pupils should know that Diwali is a popular Hindu festival and be able to explain the deeper meaning of festival celebrations such as the lighting of diva lamps, fireworks, decorating homes with rangoli patterns.

They should reflect on the symbolism of light within all human cultures, and consider how light might be a universal symbol of goodness and hope.

Year 4/5 R.E. What might a Hindu learn from celebrating Diwali? (Hinduism)

What do we already know?

Knowledge retrieval:



Castle View Religious Education objectives

Children will:

- Explore teachings about good and evil in the story of Rama and Sita
- Describe what moral guidance Hindus might gain from the story of Rama and Sita
- Make links between the actions of Rama and the belief that he is an avatar of Vishnu, appearing on the earth to destroy evil and uphold dharma
- Use subject specific language to describe how and why Hindus celebrate Diwali
- Explain the importance of light in the Diwali celebrations and how this is a symbol of good overcoming evil
- Discuss the importance of the belief that good overcomes evil
- Suggest people, words or stories that might be inspiring when trying to overcome difficulties in life
- Reflect on their own concept of 'goodness'
- Discuss what gives them hope during difficult times

Key vocabulary and understanding

Tradition, deity, avatar, dharma,

Lesson outlines:

1. Shared human experiences
2. Beliefs and values
3. Living religious traditions
4. Search for personal meaning



The Big Picture

This unit enables pupils to examine the structures that underpin Islamic beliefs and practices in greater depth. Through a study of Ramadhan, opportunities are provided for pupils to understand the key values of Islam of submission to Allah and service to God through charitable life and actions. They will consider the role of commitment as part of religious life and reflect on the wider human value of being committed to ideas, to self-improvement or to other people. Pupils will have opportunities to think about their own commitments and the extent to which these have a positive impact on their lives.

What do we already know?

Knowledge retrieval:



Year 4/5 R.E. Why do Muslims fast during Ramadan? (Islam)

Castle View Religious Education objectives

Children will:

- Know about Islamic teachings about Ramadan from the Qur'an
- Make links between Islamic values and the beliefs explored so far in their study of Islam
- Use language to describe how and why Muslims fast at Ramadan
- Explain the importance of Ramadan in the context of the Five Pillars of Islam
- Consider the impact that fasting might have on individuals, families and communities
- Discuss the importance of showing commitment to a belief, value or community
- Consider the role of sacrifice within religion and communities
- Reflect on their own beliefs, values and commitments
- Consider and discuss how they demonstrate their personal commitments

Key vocabulary and understanding

Commitment, Shahada, Salah, Saum, Zakah, Hajj (The Five Pillars), Mecca, Eid,

Lesson outlines:

1. Shared human experiences
2. Beliefs and values
3. Living religious traditions
4. Search for personal meaning



The Big Picture

This unit gives pupils the opportunity to explore how Sikhs convey their beliefs and commitments in the way they live their lives and through symbols which are observable expressions of faith. In their preaching and example, the Gurus revealed a way of life which was God centred. It is a life of religious, moral and social commitment. In outward and visible signs, Sikhs show themselves to be committed to following the teachings of the Gurus.

Sikhs are expected to demonstrate their commitment to their beliefs in the way they live their daily lives. Sikh belief perceives the world as the abode of God and as the place in which to practice Sikh dharam (religious, moral and social commitment). Sikhism teaches that all human beings should engage themselves in righteous actions and behaviour and work for a just social order.

Foremost amongst Sikh principles are:

- the complete equality of men and women everywhere;
- sewa: service to God, to the community of Sikhs and to the community at large;
- kirat karna: earning one’s living by one’s own efforts and by a livelihood which is honest;
- vand chakna: sharing one’s time, talents and earnings with the less fortunate.

How these influence the Sikh way of life will be explored within this unit.

Pupils should also have opportunities to reflect on important questions such as how humans show commitments to their values and communities, and issues of equality and justice.

What do we already know?

Knowledge retrieval:



Castle View Religious Education objectives

Children will:

- Explore teaching and stories from Sikhism
- Describe what moral guidance Sikh’s might gain from the stories and examples of the Gurus
- Make links between the beliefs, values and practices of Sikhism
- Use subject specific language to describe how and why Sikh’s show their religious commitments and values
- Explain how clothing and behaviour might be symbolic of beliefs, values and commitments
- Discuss the importance of how we view and behave towards others
- Talk about how our outward behaviour reflects our inner beliefs, values and commitments
- Reflect on their own concept of living a good life and how this influences the way that they treat others
- Discuss own thoughts and feelings about equality and justice

Year 4/5 R.E. How do Sikh’s express their beliefs and values? (Sikhism)

Key vocabulary and understanding

Khanda, Gurdwara, Langar, sewa,

Lesson outlines:

1. Shared human experiences
2. Beliefs and values
3. Living religious traditions
4. Search for personal meaning