

Early Years Vocabulary:

General language of religious study

Religion – a group of beliefs / way of life

Prayer – a communication to God

Christianity

Christmas – celebration of Jesus' birth

Easter – celebration of the resurrection of Jesus

Bible – Christian holy book

Church – Christian place of worship

Jesus – the son of God

Judaism

Moses – prophet who led the Hebrew slaves out of Egypt and communicated God's laws

Passover – Jewish festival remembering those who Moses saved from slavery

Torah – Jewish holy book - contains the first five books of Moses

Synagogue – Jewish place of worship

Non-religious worldviews

Non-religious – having no religion – not religious / connected to a church

KS1 Vocabulary:

General language of religious study

Celebration – do something special or enjoyable for an important event

Festival – gathering of people to celebrate something

Symbol – a mark or sign that represents an idea / belief

Faith – trusting in something or someone

Belief – a firm thought that something is true

Belonging – to be connected with

Worship – to honour or respect

Holiness – set apart for the service of God or of a divine being

Sacred – something treated with great respect

Christianity

Christian – people who believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God

God – the Being worshipped as the creator of the universe

Creator – responsible for the creation of the world

Incarnation – belief that Jesus is the son of God

Salvation – the idea that Jesus saved us when he died on the cross

Altar – a raised structure used for worship or prayer

Font – a basin where baptisms are performed

Gospel – sections of the New Testament in the Bible to spread the ‘good news’ of Jesus’ life

Judaism

Synagogue – Jewish place of worship

Torah – Jewish holy book

Bimah – a raised platform in a synagogue from which the Torah is read

Hanukkah – the Jewish festival of lights

Ark – the ship in which an ancient Hebrew of the Bible named Noah and his family were saved from a great flood that God sent down

Shabbat – the seventh day of the Jewish week – Friday. A time of rest, prayer and celebration

Non-religious worldviews

Humanist – Humanists do not believe in a god. They believe it is possible to live a good and fulfilling life without following a traditional religion

Golden Rule – a general rule for how to behave that says that you should treat people the way you would like other people to treat you

KS2 Vocabulary:

General language of religious study

Spiritual – inner sense of relationship to a higher power that is loving and guiding

Commitment – doing what needs to be done regardless of your talents or your mood

Moral values – standards that help an individual choose between right and wrong

Pilgrimage – a journey to a holy place

Ritual – a ceremony or series of acts that is always performed the same way

Symbol – a mark or sign that represents an idea / belief

Community – can be made up of a large or small group of people

Life after death – an existence after death

Compassion – caring about others and treating them with kindness

Sacred text – writing for the worship of a deity

Devotion – deep love or loyalty

Role model – a person who serves as an example by influencing others

Christianity

Letters of Saint Paul – letters to churches and Christians. He wrote these letters to encourage them, to help them understand Christian teaching, and to help them to live Christian lives.

Trinity – a way of describing God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit

Holy spirit – God as spiritually active in the world

Resurrection – Jesus coming back to life after he had died

Messiah – the figure promised by God to the Jews for the salvation of the world

Pentecost – the day the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles, causing them to speak in tongues

Eucharist – sharing bread and wine, saying special words to remember Jesus

Harvest festival – celebrations of the food grown on the land

Agape – the highest form of love, signifying the reciprocal love between God and humans

Islam

Muslim – a follower of Islam

Allah – the name used by Muslims for God

Prophet – a messenger who speaks the word of Allah

Mosque – Muslim place of worship

Qur'an – the holy book of Islam

Moon and star – Islamic symbol

5 Pillars – 5 acts that Muslims do to live a good life

Imam – the leader of a Mosque

Akhlaq – character or moral conduct

Hadith – a statement, action or approval attributed to the Prophet of Islam, Muhammad

Hajj – the fifth Pillar of Islam. It is a special pilgrimage performed once a year to Mecca to worship and pray to Allah

Mecca – the home of the Ka'bah, which was originally constructed by the Prophets Is'mail and Ibrahim. It was restored by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) after his pilgrimage in AD628

Hinduism

Hindu – a follower of Hinduism

Mandir – the Hindu place of worship

Murti – a statue of a God or Goddess

Gods and Goddesses – Hindus worship one Supreme Being called Brahman though by different names

Diwali – The Hindu festival of lights is associated with many stories. The main one being a celebration of the return of Lord Rama after an exile of 14 years, where he killed the demon king Ravana

Aum – the most sacred symbol in Hinduism

Ahimsa – peace and reverence toward all sentient beings

Karma – the belief that for every action there is a consequence. In Hinduism, Karma is the belief that the actions performed in this life will effect what happens to you in the next life

Dharma – what is expected of each individual to uphold order – it is the ‘right way of living’

Brahman – the Hindu God and life force that is present in everything. The different Hindu Gods are all expressions of Brahman

Shrines – anything from a room, a small altar or simply pictures or statues

Mahatma – great soul

Reincarnation – in Hinduism, it is believed that life is a cycle of birth, death and rebirth. The rebirth doesn't have to be in human form and could be an animal or plant

Non-religious worldviews

Atheist – rejecting the belief that there is a God

Agnostic – the belief that it is not possible for anyone ever to know if there are any deities or not

Rationalist – the belief that the validity of an idea is determined by logic