



Subject: Religious education Topic: Thankfulness year group: 2 Term: Summer 1

Lincolnshire SACRE Objectives

- Learn about a wide range of religions and world views.
- Understand beliefs, practices and lived experiences.
- Recognise diversity between religions.

Prior Learning

In EYFS:

PSED – why we say thank you – being kind and caring to others.

Year 1:

Bible teachings – sharing the kindness and love of Christ.

Buddhist values and places of worship.

Future Learning

Year 3:

Big Questions: What does it mean to live a good life?

Key Questions

Why is it important to say thank you?

How do show thankfulness and gratitude to others?

Why do Buddhist celebrate Vesak?

How do others religions express thankfulness?

Substantive Knowledge (key facts, dates and concepts)

Thankfulness: is the feeling of being grateful and appreciative for something someone has done or for the good things in your life. It's often expressed by saying thanks or showing kindness in return.

Buddhism: This is one of the many religions followed and celebrated around the world.

Buddhist: This is someone who follows and practices the religion of Buddhism.

Buddha: His real name was Siddhartha Gautama – he was a man who taught people how to be kind and find peace.

Festival: A festival is a special time or event when people come together to celebrate, remember, or observe something important. It's usually marked by shared activities and traditions.

Vesak: Also called Buddha day is the most important festival in Buddhism. It commemorates three key events in the life of Buddha – his birth, his enlightenment and his death.

Vesak celebrations: it is usually celebrated in May and people mark it by visiting temples, giving to charity and reflecting on Buddhist teachings.

Disciplinary Knowledge

To be able to talk about different ways people show thankfulness and gratitude.

To be able to retell simple ways Buddhists show thankfulness.

To be able to identify symbols and practices linked to the celebration of Vesak.

Sequence of lessons

1. What is thankfulness?

Sticky Knowledge

What happened in the bible story Noah's ark? (God created a huge flood/Noah built an ark and boarded animals two by two) – Year 1
What happened after Jesus was crucified? (his body laid in a tomb) – EYFS/Year 1

Intent:

Discuss what it means to be thankful – how do we show this and why would we express our gratitude to others? – can anyone remember the top strength sign for gratitude
Share examples from children's own experiences – discuss.

2. Buddhist values

Sticky Knowledge

What is our top strength sign for gratitude?
What special celebrations happen over Christmas time? (Christmas day – church services, giving/receiving gifts, spending time with family. – EYFS/Year 1

Can we remember any Muslim celebrations? Eid, Aqiqah) Year 2

Intent

Re-introduce the religion of Buddhism – what are their main beliefs/religious values.
Share the story of Buddha – he was kind/understanding. Explain that these are key values of the Buddhist faith – always share, help others and be kind. How can we show this in our school and community?

3. Vesak

Sticky Knowledge

Where do Buddhists worship? (temple) – year 1
What are the main religious values (love, kindness, helping others) – Year 1, 2

Intent

Introduce Vesak using images or a video.
Explain that Vesak is a special Buddhist festival. It celebrates three important events in the life of Buddha: His birth, his enlightenment (when he understood how to be happy and kind) and his death. Explain for this celebration Buddhists might - visit temples, light lanterns, give food or gifts and focus on being kind and helping others.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1pQwj-CNZ8>

What is Vesak? | Buddhism for Kids | Twinkl Kids TV

4. Buddhist practices and symbols

Sticky knowledge

What does the candle represent on a Christingle? (Jesus Christ - the light of the world) – Year 2

What holy land do Muslims face in prayer? (Mecca) – Year 1, 2.

Intent: What can we remember about the Buddhist faith and the celebration of Vesak?
Discuss. Re-enforce the importance of Vesak and the sacredness of this festival.
Buddhists use symbols to help them remember important ideas - During Vesak, people show thankfulness through special actions/objects - Lanterns/lights → represent light and hope.
Lotus flower → represents growing into a good, kind person
Buddha statues → remind people of Buddha and his teachings. Explore the meaning of these symbols and how they are an important way to express love and gratitude.

5. How other religions express gratitude.

Sticky Knowledge

What is an Islamic leader called? (Iman) – Year 1, 2

What language is the Quran originally written in? (Arabic) – Year 1,2.

Intent:

Discuss why we need to say thank you? How do we feel when we hear the words thank you?
Discuss ways that Christians and Muslims show gratefulness/being thankful for something/special event. Using pictures of different religious celebrations can we sort them into the correct hoop for that religion – is this celebrated by Christians, Muslims – some maybe both (Eid, baptism, Christmas, hajj, Christingle, birthday, Mother's Day, Lent, worshipping at church/mosque, temple

6. Reflections

Sticky Knowledge

Who was the Buddha? (he was a prince who became enlightened – he wanted to help others less fortunate) – year 1, 2.
Why do Christians read the bible? (to understand right and wrong and to learn about God's teachings) – Year 1, 2.

Intent

As a whole class – look through our floor book – what have we learnt in RE over this year? Share ideas and thoughts. Discuss how it is so important we learn about religion to show respect and tolerance to others – link in our British values.

Knowledge organiser

Vesak



Vesak (Buddha Day) is the most important festival in Buddhism. It is a special time when Buddhists remember the life and teachings of Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha).

What makes Vesak unique is that it celebrates three key events in Buddha's life: His birth, his enlightenment (when he understood how to live a good and peaceful life) and his death (when he reached a state of perfect peace). Even though these events happened at different times, Buddhists remember them together during Vesak.

Vesak falls on the full moon in the lunar month of Vesakha (usually in April or May). The exact date varies by country and calendar system.

It's widely celebrated in countries with strong Buddhist traditions, including: Sri Lanka (where it's a major public holiday), Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia and Singapore.

Many people begin the day by visiting Buddhist temples, where they: offer flowers, incense, and candles before images of Gautama Buddha, listen to sermons about the Buddha's life and teachings and take part in meditation and chanting. This is visit to the temples – represents the start of the festival.

Important people and figures.



Siddhartha Gautama (the Buddha) was born around 2,500 years ago, in a place called Lumbini in the country of Nepal. He was born into a royal family so he was a prince. After visiting areas outside of the palace, he saw people who were ill, sad and homeless. He wanted to help others and teach the important values of kindness, love and peacefulness. This involved teaching others not to hurt their fellow man, share what they had and staying calm when upset.

The statue of Buddha is often found in temples. People may bow or sit near it, they are not worshipping the statue itself – but showing deep respect/admiration.

Vesak traditions



In many traditions, there's a ritual of pouring water over a small statue of the infant Buddha.

This act represents purification of one's mind, letting go of greed, anger, and ignorance. It's less about the statue itself and more about an inward "cleansing."



Lighting is a huge part of Vesak - oil lamps, candles, and lanterns illuminate homes and streets. In places like Sri Lanka, intricate lanterns (Vesak kuudu) and large story panels (pandals) depict scenes from Buddhist texts.

Giving and generosity (**Dana**). Acts of generosity are central: offering food to monks, donating to the poor, setting up free food stalls for strangers. In Thailand and Myanmar, entire communities participate in feeding others. This reflects dāna (giving), one of the foundational Buddhist virtues—it weakens attachment and cultivates compassion.

