

# Lower KS2 units of study

## Unit L2.3 What is the 'Trinity' and why is it important for Christians? [God/Incarnation]

The principal aim of religious education is to explore what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that pupils can gain the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to handle questions raised by religion and belief, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living.

**Learning outcomes** (intended to enable pupils to achieve end of key stage outcomes):

Teachers will enable pupils to achieve these outcomes, as appropriate to their age and stage, so that they can:

### Make sense of belief:

- Recognise what a 'Gospel' is and give an example of the kinds of stories it contains
- Offer suggestions about what texts about baptism and Trinity mean
- Give examples of what these texts mean to some Christians today

### Understand the impact:

- Describe how Christians show their beliefs about God the Trinity in worship in different ways (in baptism and prayer, for example) and in the way they live

### Make connections:

- Make links between some Bible texts studied and the idea of God in Christianity, expressing clearly some ideas of their own about what Christians believe God is like.

### Ideas and some content for learning:

Teachers can select content from these examples, and add more of their own to enable pupils to achieve the outcomes.

- A way in to this unit would be to explore how and why water is used as a symbol in Christianity: use some water to prompt pupils to think about how and when it can be cleansing, refreshing, life-giving, beautiful, dangerous, still, flowing, reflective, thirst-quenching. Make a link with why water is used in Christian baptism – because of its many symbolic meanings.
- Introduce the idea of a 'Gospel' — a life-story or biography of the life and teaching of Jesus. Tell pupils the story from one of the four Gospels, Matthew 3:13–17. Ask what they think is going on. Ask for suggestions about the meaning of details: the water, the voice, the dove. At the very start of Jesus' public life, it pictures the Trinity: the voice of God announces Jesus as the Son of God and the Holy Spirit is present in the form of a dove. Christians believe that one important thing the story teaches is that Jesus is not just a good man, but God who has come to Earth to rescue humanity. Ask pupils to list clues they can find in the story for this message.
- Look carefully at two paintings of the Baptism (for example, by Verrocchio and Daniel Bonnell – see [www.artbible.info](http://www.artbible.info) and search 'baptism'). Discuss similarities and differences between how the different painters show God. Christians believe God is three in one: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They sometimes describe the Trinity according to their different roles: God the Father and Creator, God the Son and Saviour, and God the Holy Spirit as the presence and power of God at work in all life today. Ask pupils to list ways in which these pictures show this belief. Ask the class to make their own pictures of the baptism of Jesus which include symbols for the voice of God and the Holy Spirit.
- Ask pupils to draft a suggestion for a baptism prayer for a baby in a Christian family today: from their learning about Jesus' baptism, what kinds of words do they think will be in the prayer? Investigate what happens and what prayers are said at Christian baptisms and compare the official prayers with their suggestions: what did they miss out? (Note that baptism has been introduced in Units F4, 1.8 and 1.10, so build on that learning.) Notice where Christian belief in the Trinity (God as three persons in one: Father, Son and Holy Spirit) is shown in the celebrations. Explore the differences between baptising babies and adults. List similarities and differences between the celebrations, and make connections with the story of Jesus' baptism. Remind pupils of the symbolism of water: list as many ideas as possible for what water symbolises in baptism.
- Return to the unit question: What is the 'Trinity' and why is it important for Christians? Ask pupils to express their response using symbols and art. Use a triangle, a triptych or a three-piece Venn diagram and ask pupils to design a work of art for a church called 'Holy Trinity'. (There may be one not too far from you — there are many hundreds in the UK.) Ask them to write a short piece to explain their artwork and the 'big idea'.

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## Unit L2.5 Why do Christians call the day Jesus died ‘Good Friday’? [Salvation]

The principal aim of religious education is to explore what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that pupils can gain the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to handle questions raised by religion and belief, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living.

**Learning outcomes** (intended to enable pupils to achieve end of key stage outcomes):

Teachers will enable pupils to achieve these outcomes, as appropriate to their age and stage, so that they can:

### Make sense of belief:

- Recognise the word ‘Salvation’, and that Christians believe Jesus came to ‘save’ or ‘rescue’ people, e.g. by showing them how to live
- Offer informed suggestions about what the events of Holy Week mean to Christians
- Give examples of what Christians say about the importance of the events of Holy Week

### Understand the impact:

- Make simple links between the Gospel accounts and how Christians mark the Easter events in their communities
- Describe how Christians show their beliefs about Jesus in worship in different ways

### Make connections:

- Raise thoughtful questions and suggest some answers about why Christians call the day Jesus died ‘Good Friday’, giving good reasons for their suggestions.

### Ideas and some content for learning:

Teachers can select content from these examples, and add more of their own to enable pupils to achieve the outcomes.

- Remind pupils that Christians believe humans are separated from God because they all sin – that is, they prefer to go their own way rather than God’s. Most Christians say that Jesus came to show people how to live a life of love and obedience – saving or rescuing them by helping them to live God’s way. (Some Christians say Jesus did more – that he actually died to pay the penalty for all people’s sin. This will be explored more in Unit U2.5.)
- Recap work on Holy Week from Unit 1.5 – what can pupils remember? Get pupils to prepare to write a diary entry for Mary, the mother of Jesus, for three important days in Holy Week: Palm Sunday (entry to Jerusalem: Matthew 21:7–11); Good Friday (Jesus’ death: Luke 23:13–25, 32–48); and Easter Sunday (Jesus is raised to life: Luke 24:1–12). Use active strategies to tell the story of each day, discussing how Mary might be feeling – perhaps through some hot-seating, freeze-framing and role-play; explore questions pupils have about the stories, and any surprises for the characters and for pupils. Create an emotion graph for Mary for the week. Use these to help pupils write a simple diary for the three days, showing ideas about what happened, how Mary might feel, and why she thought it happened. Would Mary call the day Jesus died ‘Good Friday’? Would she say something different on Sunday?
- Talk about pupils’ responses and reaction to the story: how did it make them feel? How do they think Christians will feel as they read this account? What would Christians learn from Jesus’ example and teaching in these accounts?
- Use visits, visitors, church websites and church programme cards to find photos and other information about what different churches do on Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday (e.g. types of service, music, readings, actions and rituals, colours, decorations). Use this BBC clip to explore these ideas more fully: [www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02mww94](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02mww94). Record how Christians (e.g. Nathan and Lara in the clip) might feel on each Good Friday and Easter Sunday – perhaps compare their emotion graph with Mary’s. Talk about what Christians think about Jesus and the idea of ‘salvation’: one idea is that Christians see Jesus shows them how to live a life that pleases God, a life of love for all – ‘saving’ them from going the wrong path in life. Design a display to show the importance of each day – linking the texts, various Christian practices, and the meanings for Christians.
- For people at the time, these three parts of the story provoke hope, sadness and joy. Why was there hope as Jesus arrived as king? (E.g. the people were expecting God to rescue them and restore their land.) Why was there sadness? (E.g. their king was killed and everything seemed lost.) Why was there joy? (E.g. Jesus was alive!) You could annotate Mary’s emotion graph with these explanations. Explore why these stories still provoke these emotions in Christians today. Compare with what brings hope, sadness and joy to pupils. Reflect on the key question: Why do Christians call the day their king died ‘Good’ Friday? (E.g. They think that Jesus rose from death – so Friday was not the end; and he opened up a way to heaven too, which Christians say is good news for all.)

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## Unit L2.6 For Christians, what was the impact of Pentecost? [Kingdom of God]

The principal aim of religious education is to explore what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that pupils can gain the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to handle questions raised by religion and belief, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living.

**Learning outcomes** (intended to enable pupils to achieve end of key stage outcomes):

Teachers will enable pupils to achieve these outcomes, as appropriate to their age and stage, so that they can:

### Make sense of belief:

- Make clear links between the story of Pentecost and Christian beliefs about the 'kingdom of God' on Earth
- Offer informed suggestions about what the events of Pentecost in Acts 2 might mean
- Give examples of what Pentecost means to some Christians now

### Understand the impact:

- Make simple links between the description of Pentecost in Acts 2, the Holy Spirit, the kingdom of God, and how Christians live now
- Describe how Christians show their beliefs about the Holy Spirit in worship

### Make connections:

- Make links between ideas about the kingdom of God in the Bible and what people believe about following God today, giving good reasons for their ideas.

### Ideas and some content for learning:

Teachers can select content from these examples, and add more of their own to enable pupils to achieve the outcomes.

- Recall learning from Unit L2.5, about belief in Jesus' death and resurrection. Many Christians say Jesus was raised to new life to bring in a new 'kingdom' where God rules in people's lives. The Bible says that Jesus went to heaven after his resurrection, leaving his disciples behind. They wanted to show everyone that God rules on Earth — but how? Ask pupils what they think happens next. The story says God sent his Holy Spirit to empower the disciples.
- Read or tell the story of Pentecost (Acts 2:1–15, 22 and 37–41), using a suitable translation (e.g. the International Children's Bible on [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)). Make it dramatic and exciting (fire, tornadoes, accusations of drunkenness, confusion and 3,000 people changing their lives!) Ask 'I wonder ...' questions as you go: Why is the Spirit like a wind? Like a flame? Why do they appear drunk? Why did the people who listened come from 15 different countries? Consider pupils' responses to the story — their questions, comments, surprises, puzzles.
- Give pupils part of some artwork that shows the story (e.g. from [www.artbible.info](http://www.artbible.info)) and ask pupils to sketch the rest of the picture, from the story. Compare with the original artwork to see what they included and left out. How have artists expressed the idea of the power of the Holy Spirit and the impact on the disciples and listeners?
- In the final part of the chapter, Acts 2:41–47, 3,000 people accept Jesus as king of their lives, and join the 'kingdom of God'. Ask pupils to use the text to find out what these new followers of Jesus were told to do, what they did and how they felt.
- Connect with their learning on God as Trinity (Unit L2.3). Who or what do Christians think the Holy Spirit is? Why do Christians think the Holy Spirit is important now? Christians might say the Spirit of God is like a battery: Christians can't do God's work and live in God's way without the Holy Spirit's power. Find out more about Christian beliefs about the Holy Spirit (e.g. [bit.ly/2mfD7fG](http://bit.ly/2mfD7fG)) and list the ways in which Christians believe the Holy Spirit helps them.
- Since Pentecost, Christians have been trying to make the world look more like the kingdom of God. Ask pupils to describe what it might be like, if the God described by Christians really did rule in everyone's heart. Talk about why Christians would say God's rule on Earth is a good thing today. Look at the words of the Lord's Prayer: what clues does that give to what Christians might believe the kingdom of God should be like?
- Pentecost is the Church's birthday. Ask pupils to suggest ways in which Christians should celebrate this birthday — the giving of the Holy Spirit. List some activities Christians might do and say; where would this be, and why. Think about ways of capturing the excitement of that first Pentecost with sound, movement, colour, and so on. Compare with examples of what churches do.
- Consider why quite a few people do not want to have God as 'king' in their life. See if pupils can give some reasons, such as people being atheists to preferring to make up their own minds about how to live. Consider why Christians believe allowing God to rule in their life is a good thing, which guides and comforts them. Ask pupils to explain what difference they think the giving of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost made to Christians, then and now.

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## Unit L2.7 What do Hindus believe that God is like? [Brahman/atman]

The principal aim of religious education is to explore what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that pupils can gain the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to handle questions raised by religion and belief, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living.

**Learning outcomes** (intended to enable pupils to achieve end of key stage outcomes):

Teachers will enable pupils to achieve some of these outcomes, as appropriate to their age and stage, so that they can:

### Make sense of belief:

- Identify some Hindu deities and say how they help Hindus describe God
- Make clear links between some stories (e.g. Svetaketu, Ganesh, Diwali) and what Hindus believe about God
- Offer informed suggestions about what Hindu *murtis* express about God

### Understand the impact:

- Make simple links between beliefs about God and how Hindus live (e.g. choosing a deity and worshiping at a home shrine; celebrating Diwali)
- Identify some different ways in which Hindus worship

### Make connections:

- Raise questions and suggest answers about whether it is good to think about the cycle of create/preserve/destroy in the world today
- Make links between the Hindu idea of everyone having a 'spark' of God in them and ideas about the value of people in the world today, giving good reasons for their ideas.

### Ideas and some content for learning:

Teachers can select content from these examples, and add more of their own to enable pupils to achieve the outcomes.

- Show pupils a range of 'Aum' symbols in both 2D and 3D form. Ask if, where and when pupils have seen the sign before and what they think it means. Explain that it is a symbol used in Hinduism. It is called 'Aum' and made up of 3 sounds: 'A', 'U' and 'M'. Many Hindus believe that it was the very first sound out of which the universe was created. It is a symbol and sound that is used by many Hindus to represent **Brahman** (God), the ultimate being, whose spirit is in everything.
- Using water and salt, tell the story of Svetaketu to illustrate the idea of Brahman being invisible but in everything.
- Illustrate how people (including pupils) can be described in different aspects (e.g. teacher, parent, netball player, friend, helpful, computer whizz, etc.); gather some photos to show these different ways of describing themselves – one photo would not be enough to show the 'real you'. Show some images of Hindu deities, Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva (the *Trimurti*) and their consorts, Saraswati, Lakshmi and Parvati. Ask pupils to raise questions about each image – what do they suggest God is like? Explore the idea that these deities are three ways of understanding God – three pictures to help Hindus relate to the impossible-to-understand Ultimate Reality, Brahman. Look at different pictures of Hindu deities and see if pupils can identify common or distinctive features for each. What aspect of Brahman do they express?
- Think about cycles of life, death and rebirth that we see in nature (e.g. seasons, seeds/bulbs, forest fires, etc.). Note how necessary they are for life. Talk about what pupils think death has to do with life; this Hindu idea suggests that death/destruction is often a necessary part of life. Connect with *Trimurti* – Brahma (Creator), Vishnu (Preserver) and Shiva (sometimes called 'Destroyer', or 'Transformer'). Explore the qualities of each of these deities in the context of the idea of the cycle of life.
- Investigate a number of different statues and pictures of gods and goddesses to find out what ideas these show about the nature of God, for example, Ganesh (the remover of obstacles, and son of Shiva); Krishna (who comes to Earth to protect it, avatar of Vishnu); Parvati and Durga.
- Look at how Hindus often choose a deity to worship at a shrine in their own home. Find out about what happens at an act of puja at home, exploring it using the senses.
- Explore the story of Rama and Sita, from the Ramayana, celebrated at Diwali. Link to the idea of the *Trimurti* (Rama is another avatar of Vishnu). Introduce Diwali (more details on celebrating Diwali are explored in Unit L2.8).
- Talk about the idea for some Hindus that all living beings possess a 'spark' of Brahman, the Ultimate Reality. This 'spark' is known as 'atman' and means that all living beings are sacred and special. Talk about what difference this would make to how people treat each other and the natural world if everyone believed that all living beings contained the 'spark' of God. What is good about this idea? Is there anything helpful about it for people who are not Hindus, or who do not believe there is a god? Make a set of school rules for a world where everyone has an 'atman'. Compare with the actual school rules: how far do we try to treat everyone as if they are special?

## Unit L2.8 What does it mean to be a Hindu in Britain today? [Dharma]

The principal aim of religious education is to explore what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that pupils can gain the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to handle questions raised by religion and belief, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living.

**Learning outcomes** (intended to enable pupils to achieve end of key stage outcomes):

Teachers will enable pupils to achieve some of these outcomes, as appropriate to their age and stage, so that they can:

### Understand the impact:

- Describe how Hindus show their faith within their families in Britain today (e.g. home *puja*)
- Describe how Hindus show their faith within their faith communities in Britain today (e.g. *arti* and *bhajans* at the *mandir*; in festivals such as Diwali)
- Identify some different ways in which Hindus show their faith (e.g. between different communities in Britain, or between Britain and parts of India)

### Make sense of belief:

- Identify the terms dharma, Sanatan Dharma and Hinduism and say what they mean
- Make links between Hindu practices and the idea that Hinduism is a whole 'way of life' (*dharma*)

### Make connections:

- Raise questions and suggest answers about what is good about being a Hindu in Britain today, and whether taking part in family and community rituals is a good thing for individuals and society, giving good reasons for their ideas.

### Ideas and some content for learning:

Teachers can select content from these examples, and add more of their own to enable pupils to achieve the outcomes.

Note that the word 'Hinduism' is a European word for describing a diverse religious tradition that developed in what is now northern India. Some people within the tradition itself prefer to call Hinduism 'Sanatan Dharma', which means 'Eternal Way' and describes a complete way of life rather than a set of beliefs. Introduce the word **dharma** – this describes a Hindu's whole way of life, there is no separation between their religious, social and moral duties. *Note that this explains why the 'Understanding the impact' element comes first in this unit.*

- Find out about how Hindus show their faith within their families. Show pupils objects you might find in a Hindu's home and why e.g. *murtis*; a family shrine; statues and pictures of deities; a *puja* tray including incense, fruit, bells, flowers, candles; some sacred texts such as the Bhagavad Gita, *Aum* symbols. Find out what they mean, how they are used, when and why.
- Explore the kinds of things Hindu families would do during the week e.g. daily *puja*, blessing food, *arti* ceremony, singing hymns, reading holy texts, visiting the temple, etc. Talk about which objects and actions are most important and why. What similarities and differences are there with the family values and home rituals of pupils in the class?
- Explore what Hindus do to show their tradition within their faith communities. Find out what Hindus do together and why e.g. visiting the temple/*mandir*, performing rituals, including prayer, praise such as singing hymns/songs (*bhajans*), offerings before the *murtis*, sharing and receiving *prashad* (an apple or sweet) representing the grace of God, looking at Hindu iconography – make links with learning from Unit L2.7 about how the different images show the different characters and attributes of the deities.
- Find out how Hindus celebrate Diwali in Britain today. Show images of Diwali being celebrated (search online for local Diwali celebrations) and recall the story of Rama and Sita from Unit L2.7. Identify the characters, connect with ideas of Rama as the god Vishnu in human form (*avatar*); examine the role of Sita; examine the use of light in Hindu celebrations to represent good overcoming bad, and Hindus overcoming temptation in their own lives; and the festival as an invitation to Lakshmi, goddess of prosperity and good fortune. Ask pupils to weigh up what matters most at Diwali. Talk about whether Hindus should be given a day off at Diwali in Britain.
- Find out about other Hindu celebrations, e.g. Holi, or Navaratri/Durga Puja in Britain (e.g. BBC clip on Durga Puja in Kolkata here: [www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p010xmhy](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p010xmhy))
- Talk about what good things come from sharing in worship and rituals in family and community. Are there similarities and differences with people in other faith communities pupils have studied already? Are there similarities and differences with people who are not part of a faith community? If possible, invite a Hindu visitor to talk about how they live, including ideas studied above.

## Unit L2.11 How and why do people mark the significant events of life?

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**Learning outcomes** (intended to enable pupils to achieve end of key stage outcomes):

Teachers will enable pupils to achieve these outcomes, as appropriate to their age and stage, so that they can:

### Make sense of belief:

- Identify some beliefs about love, commitment and promises in two religious traditions and describe what they mean
- Offer informed suggestions about the meaning and importance of ceremonies of commitment for religious and non-religious people today

### Understand the impact:

- Describe what happens in ceremonies of commitment (e.g. baptism, sacred thread, marriage) and say what these rituals mean
- Make simple links between beliefs about love and commitment and how people in at least two religious traditions live (e.g. through celebrating forgiveness, salvation and freedom at festivals)
- Identify some differences in how people celebrate commitment (e.g. different practices of marriage, or Christian baptism)

### Make connections:

- Raise questions and suggest answers about whether it is good for everyone to see life as a journey, and to mark the milestones
- Make links between ideas of love, commitment and promises in religious and non-religious ceremonies
- Give good reasons why they think ceremonies of commitment are or are not valuable today.

### Ideas and some content for learning:

Teachers can select content from these examples, and add more of their own to enable pupils to achieve the outcomes.

Throughout this unit, make connections with pupils' prior learning from earlier in the year. Compare the ways Christians mark their journey through life with whichever religion has been studied this year, as well as non-religious responses, where appropriate.

- Explore and use the religious metaphor of life as a journey. What are the significant milestones on this journey? What other metaphors could be used for life?
- Consider the value and meaning of ceremonies that mark milestones in life, particularly those associated with growing up and taking responsibility within a faith community. How do these practices show what is important in the lives of those taking these steps? Explore the symbols and rituals used and the promises made; explore what meaning these ceremonies have to the individual, their family and their communities; reflect on the on-going impact of these commitments:
  - Christians: e.g. Baptists/Pentecostals celebrate 'believers' baptism', or 'adult baptism'. Church of England and Roman Catholic celebrations of infant baptism (note that infant baptism has been introduced in Units F4, 1.8, 1.10 L2.3 and L2.4, so build on that learning). Roman Catholics celebrate first communion and confession; Church of England and Roman Catholics celebrate confirmation.
  - Hindus: sacred thread ceremony.
  - Jews: *bar/bat mitzvah*.
  - Consider whether and how non-religious people (e.g. pupils and families in your school who have no religious background; Humanists) mark these moments. Why are these moments important to people?
- Compare some different commitments held by believers in different religions – and by the pupils themselves.
- Think about the symbolism, meaning and value of ceremonies that mark the commitment of a loving relationship between two people: compare wedding ceremonies and marriage commitments in two religious traditions e.g. Christian and Hindu/Jewish (NB: Christian and Jewish marriage was introduced in Unit 1.10, so build on that learning). What happens? What promises are made? Why are they important? What prayers are offered? How do people's religious beliefs show through these ceremonies and commitments? Compare with non-religious, civil wedding ceremonies.
- Work with the metaphor of life as a journey: what might be the signposts, guidebooks, stopping points or traffic jams? Does religious or spiritual teaching have an impact on believers on life's journey?
- Create a 'map of life' for a Hindu, Jewish or Christian person, showing what these religions offer to guide people through life's journey. Can anyone learn from another person's 'map of life'? Is a religion like a 'map for life'?
- Reflect on their own ideas about the importance of love, commitment, community, belonging and belief today.

Note: Pupils may naturally bring up the topics of death or afterlife in this unit. If they do, discussions about these topics may be valid as part of pupils' RE in this unit and these discussions should be handled sensitively. However, these topics are not the main focus of this unit as they appear in the Upper Key Stage 2 units.