

# Why does Christmas matter to Christians? Year 1/2

## Key Concepts

### Key RE Concepts:

#### Key Elements:

#### Making Sense of beliefs

- Core Concepts and beliefs

#### Making Connections

- ideas to pupils' lives

#### Understanding Impact

- beliefs in action

## Common core RE Concepts

- Belief
- Worship
- Transcendence
- Tradition
- Morality
- Commitment
- Suffering
- Identity
- Interdependence

## Key Belonging Concepts

- Belonging
- Community
- Meaning
- Purpose
- Truth
- Faith
- Sacred places
- Diversity

## Key Questions

- Who is a Christian and what do they believe?
- How do Christians celebrate Christmas?
- What do different people believe in?
- Why do some people believe God exists?
- Do we need to prove God's existence?

## Key Skills I will learn/use

**Remember:** I will use my memory to remember what I have learnt about in other religions and the stories I have heard.

**Recall:** I will be able to recall facts and details about different religious ceremonies.

**Name:** I will be able to name different religious ceremonies including.....

**Observe:** - I will observe different religious ceremonies and traditions.

**Notice:** I will be able to notice how some teachings in different religions are very similar to some in the other religions I have learnt.

**Recognise:** I will be able to recognise some similarities and differences between what Christians believe and what other faiths believe.

**Understand:** I will be able to understand why people of faith find it important to belong to a religion.

**Retell:** I will be able to re tell some of the stories I have heard about belonging.

**Ask questions:** I will be able to ask appropriate questions to further my knowledge of what it means to belong.

**Give opinions:** I will be able to give respectful and well thought out opinions on what I have learnt about different faiths and what they believe.

**Collect, use and respond to ideas:** I will be able to use different research techniques to collect, use and respond to the ideas I have about belonging to different faiths and what they believe.

## What I have already learnt

- I already know people have different beliefs.
- I already know a range of religious stories from the Christian Bible and some from the Islamic religion.
- I have already learnt how to handle religious artefacts and objects with respect.
- I have already learnt about different religious celebrations.
- I have already started to notice and respond to some of the similarities and differences between religions.
- I have already observed and recounted different ways of expressing identity and belonging.
- I have already learnt to ask and respond to questions about what individuals and communities do, and why.
- I have already learnt to recognise some of the symbols and actions that express a religious community's way of life.
- I have learnt about who and what we can belong to (our family, our friends, school, clubs).
- I have already learnt about why we celebrate special moments in life (baptism, marriage).

## What I will have learnt by the end of this unit

- I will be able to explain that many people have objects in their home that are 'precious' to them and that these can be linked to religion
- I will be able to recognise objects that can be found in many Christian homes at Christmas
- I will be able to recognise some symbols of belonging for Christians.
- I will be able to think about why symbols of belonging matter to believers.
- I will be able to talk about how Christian people believe in one God
- I will be able to recognise Christmas symbols and know the meaning of them to Christian believers
- I will be able to give an account of what happens in the Christmas story and suggest what the actions and symbols mean.
- I will be able to recall the Nativity story and understand its meaning.
- I will be able to tell religious stories and make connections with my personal experiences.

## What I will have learnt by the end of my Key Stage

- I will have learnt to recognise symbols of belonging from my own experience.
- I will have learnt to recognise symbols of belonging for Christianity.
- I will have learnt about why symbols of belonging matter to believers.
- I will have learnt to give examples of ways in which believers express their identity and belonging within faith communities
- I will have learnt to respond sensitively to differences in the way believers express their identify and belonging.
- I will have learnt to identify some similarities and differences between the ceremonies studied
- I will be able to give an account of what happens in the Christmas story and suggest what the actions and symbols mean.
- I will be able to recall the Nativity story and understand its meaning.

## Key Knowledge

- We believe that the birth of Jesus is good news.
- Angels brought the news to Zachariah, Mary and the shepherds.
- We believe that Jesus is the saviour of the world.
- Answer good questions about the Christmas story.
- To talk about what happened to Zachariah.
- To tell the Christmas story.
- To talk about the message of the angels.
- To describe the different ways artists portray angels
- To talk about the ways we share the good news at Christmas time.
- To know the Christmas symbols of Christians

## Key Vocabulary

<b>nativity</b>	The story from the Bible about the birth of Jesus.
<b>Nazareth</b>	The city where Mary and Joseph lived.
<b>Pregnant</b>	Expecting a baby.
<b>Bethlehem</b>	The town where Jesus was born, sometimes known as The City of David.
<b>census</b>	A formal count of all the people who live in a particular place. The Roman census required couples to travel to the husband's place of birth.
<b>inn</b>	A house where travellers can stay.
<b>manger</b>	A long trough used to feed horses or cattle.
<b>saviour</b>	Someone who saves others from harm or bad deeds. Christians refer to Jesus Christ as their saviour.
<b>worship</b>	The feeling or act of showing respect, loyalty or love.

# Why does Christmas matter to Christians? Year 1/2

## Key Knowledge



### Christmas Customs

There are lots of different ways that people celebrate Christmas and Advent:

- Christmas trees symbolise the everlasting life of God;
- Mistletoe is a symbol of peace and joy and is used to show friendship and goodwill;
- **Advent** calendars, wreaths and candles are different ways of counting down to Jesus' birthday;
- Christingles symbolise the importance of Jesus and the **gospel**.



### 'The Nativity' Story

The Christmas Story is also called 'The **Nativity**'. In this story, an angel appeared to Mary and told her that she was going to have a baby and that he would be the Son of God and he would be called Jesus. While Mary was pregnant, a census took place and she and Joseph (her husband) had to travel to Bethlehem - their town of birth.

When they arrived in Bethlehem, there was no room at any inns for them to stay in but they were allowed to stay in a stable. This is where Jesus was born. Angels told shepherds on a hillside that the Son of God had been born so they went to visit him in Bethlehem. Wise men spotted a bright star in the sky and knew this meant a king had been born so they went to visit with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. King Herod heard that a new king had been born from the wise men and ordered that all the baby boys in the area be killed. An angel appeared in a dream to Joseph and Mary and warned them so they travelled to Egypt with baby Jesus and were safe.



## My Skills and Knowledge that I may use from other subjects

Literacy:

I can use my literacy knowledge and skills to write detailed descriptions of objects, beliefs and experiences.

Reading:

I can use my phonic knowledge and skills to segmenting and blending to decode unfamiliar words.

Geography:

I can use my geographical knowledge to find out which country and continent different religions began and how they celebrate Christmas

Science:

I can use my knowledge of seasons to know when certain ceremonies and celebrations are held.

Mathematics:

I can use my knowledge of time to know how long ceremonies last and at what time they start, such as Shabbat.

Art: I can use my art skills to practice the art of calligraphy when writing important names.

D&T: I can use my Design and Technology construction and joining skills to construct a models of religious buildings.

History: I can use the knowledge and skills I have gained in History to read timelines and know things happened before I was born.

Opportunities for teaching Diversity, Equality (Including protected characteristics) and expanding Cultural Capital

Christmas Traditions around the world

[Christmas Traditions Around The World | Fun With Kids](#)

[St Nicholas Day: Ten European Christmas traditions you may not know - BBC Newsround](#)

[Quiz: Guess what you can recycle after Christmas - BBC](#)