

## RE Big Questions for each Year Group

These are questions which you may choose to base your lessons on, or encourage your children to ask. There will be many more for each section, these are just a start. Some I have lifted straight from the syllabus, and some are my own ideas based on each unit. Do not feel like you have to use all of them! They are supposed to contribute to a deeper, more investigative approach to RE.

Green highlighting – Links to PSHE curriculum

Big questions from PSHE curriculum that may be relevant

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| <p>Year 1</p> | <p>1.1</p> <p>Why do we celebrate festivals?<br/>         What do the stories mean? Why do we keep telling these stories?<br/>         Which festivals do you celebrate – what do they mean to you?<br/>         What are you thankful for?<br/>         How do you try to be generous?<br/>         What difference does it make when we are generous and thankful?<br/>         How can we tell when people belong to different religions or believe something different to us?<br/>         How can we live together kindly when we are all so different?<br/>         What does respecting others look like?</p> <p>What makes you special?<br/>         How am I the same as my friend?<br/>         What differences are there between you and your friend?<br/>         What makes a good friend?<br/>         How do we treat our friends?<br/>         How am I different?<br/>         Why does that make me special?<br/>         Is it ever ok to call somebody names?<br/>         Is everybody incredible in some way?<br/>         Who is special to you?<br/>         Why are they special?<br/>         How can we show people they are special to us?</p> | <p>1.2</p> <p>Do stories from different religions say the same things about how we should behave?<br/>         Who am I? Where do I belong?<br/>         Who cares for me?<br/>         Who do I care for? How does it show?<br/>         What happens when people are cheerful, honest, kind, thankful, fair or generous, and what happens when people are unkind, ungrateful, untruthful, unfair or mean?<br/>         Why is being caring important?<br/>         Why is being kind important? How can we teach other people that being kind is important?</p> <p>What makes you special?<br/>         What does it mean to be a member of our class?<br/>         How does it feel?<br/>         Do you know what behaviour has consequences?<br/>         Do you think it's fair?<br/>         How can we help children in the playground?<br/>         What makes a good friend?<br/>         How do we treat our friends?<br/>         What makes people friends?<br/>         What is a family?</p> | <p>1.3</p> <p>Why do Christians tell these stories?<br/>         Where do they come from?<br/>         What do you think they mean to Christians?<br/>         Why is Jesus important to Christians?<br/>         Christians believe that Jesus was God come to earth. What do you think?<br/>         Can you spot the hidden meanings in these stories?<br/>         What are the people in these stories like?<br/>         What values/important things can you see in this story? How do you think Christians might behave because of this?<br/>         Can you show me (in a drawing/acting out) the most important part of this story? Why is it the most important part?<br/>         Should Jesus have gone to the house of the tax collector Zacchaeus? Why did he?<br/>         Why do Christians feel sad on 'Good Friday'? What happened after Jesus died, at Easter?</p> <p>I can identify and name different feelings human beings experience.<br/>         Celebrating the differences in everyone</p> | <p>1.4</p> <p>Which symbols and artefacts did you see on our visits? Why are they there and what do they mean?<br/>         Which special events happen at a church or a synagogue?<br/>         Have you ever been to a church or synagogue? Why or why not?<br/>         Why do some people go to church and others don't?<br/>         Are some of the symbols in different religions similar? What do you notice?<br/>         Can you believe in God or be spiritual and not go to a building? Do you think you can see God in nature?<br/>         What is your idea of a 'sacred space'?</p> <p>Feeling special and safe<br/>         The world around me<br/>         I can identify and name different feelings human beings experience.<br/>         I can talk about one thing that makes me different from my friends<br/>         I understand these differences make us all special and unique<br/>         I can identify other people's roles in our community.</p> <p>How am I the same as my friend?<br/>         What differences are there between you and your friend?</p> |
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| <p>Year 2</p> | <p>2.1</p> <p>What does a good leader look like?<br/>         What makes someone inspiring?<br/>         Who inspires me and why?<br/>         How does a good leader make a difference? What about a bad leader?<br/>         How did the leaders in the stories behave? (Jesus, Moses, Peter) What were they like?<br/>         What are your favourite wise sayings? Why?<br/>         What does it mean to be wise?<br/>         Do you know anyone really wise? What makes them like this?<br/>         What difference would it make if people followed your wise saying?<br/>         How do people show they follow a leader?<br/>         What do Christians do to show they follow Jesus?<br/>         How do Christians celebrate their leaders?<br/>         What was your favourite part of the story? What does that show about good leaders?</p> <p>Rights and responsibilities<br/>         I can work cooperatively and understand how following the School rules will help me and others learn</p> <p>What does responsibility mean?<br/>         How can you be a responsible member of our class?<br/>         Do you understand the connection between behaviour and consequence?<br/>         Do you all understand how our new Learning Charter will help us all learn?</p> | <p>2.2</p> <p>What do Jewish people believe about God?<br/>         What is the Jewish (and Christian) story of creation?<br/>         What is Shabbat and how is it celebrated?<br/>         Can you spot the links between the story of creation and the celebration of Shabbat?<br/>         What does the creation story tell us about looking after the world?<br/>         What are your ideas about God?</p> <p>I understand that people might not feel the same as me.<br/>         I can share my feelings appropriately.<br/>         I can identify things I can do to look after the wider world.<br/>         I can identify different groups I am a part of.</p> | <p>2.3</p> <p>How do religions celebrate belonging?<br/>         Which groups do you belong to? Why is belonging to a group important? What effect does it have on the people around us?<br/>         Why does belonging matter?<br/>         Can you be a good member of different groups?<br/>         Who belongs in a church?<br/>         Does the building belong to God?<br/>         Who am I? Where do I belong?<br/>         How do we all belong together?<br/>         Why is it important that we all follow the golden rule, even if we don't belong to a religion?<br/>         How do we see this golden rule in our school? Which values does it link with?<br/>         What do you think Christians mean when they say they belong to God?<br/>         Which ways of belonging matter most to you?</p> <p>I understand the rights and responsibilities for being a member of my class and school</p> <p>I can help to make my class a safe and fair place</p> <p>I can work cooperatively and understand how following the School rules will help me and others learn</p> <p>I can identify different groups I am a part of.</p> <p>I can explain some of the ways I worked cooperatively in my group.</p> <p>I can express how it felt to be working as part of this group</p> | <p>2.4</p> <p>Why are these stories important to Jewish people (and Christians)?<br/>         What good qualities do these characters have?<br/>         Do they make mistakes?<br/>         Is it ok to make mistakes? Why did God forgive them?<br/>         What is special about the Torah? Do you have special objects or books? Why are they special?<br/>         What do you think about these characters? Why?<br/>         What does this tell you about what Jewish people believe about God?<br/>         Which is your favourite story? Why?<br/>         Which story do you think might be most important to Jewish people?</p> <p>I can compare myself with a friend and describe the similarities and differences between us</p> <p>I can express how I feel about our similarities and differences</p> |
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What strengths might you need to do a certain job?

What helps us to trust people?

What makes us lose trust?

Who are the people around us we trust/don't trust?

I can explain how my own and other people's contributions helped the group to create the end product

I can explain what felt good and what felt difficult about working in our group

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| <p>Year 3</p> | <p>3.1</p> <p>What difference does it make to be a Christian?<br/> How does being a Christian affect the celebrations of Christmas and Easter?<br/> Why might it be different for Christians to celebrate Christmas and Easter?<br/> Why are the festivals of Pentecost and Harvest important to Christians?<br/> How do Christian people's beliefs about God, Jesus, the world and others have impact on their lives?<br/> What does the church do to put the teachings of Jesus into action? Can you think of any examples in our community?<br/> What do Christians believe about God?<br/> What different views do we know about the beginnings of life on Earth?<br/> Did God make us all, or are we an accident?<br/> Is Genesis 1 a story about human nature or about how the world was made?<br/> Where do we come from?<br/> What was there before the Earth?</p> <p>Seeing things from others' perspective<br/> Making a difference<br/> I can listen to and show respect for the views of others.</p> <p>Why is it important to see things from other people's perspectives?<br/> Can kindness change the world?</p> | <p>3.2</p> <p>How do Muslims pray?<br/> Why do Muslims pray?<br/> Why do people talk to God?<br/> What makes some prayers or rituals special? Why?<br/> How would your prayer time feel if you were/are a Christian, Muslim or from another faith?<br/> What are some of the things people do when they pray? Why?<br/> How do the community get involved in prayer?<br/> What does prayer mean to people?<br/> What does it mean to me?<br/> How, where, when and why do people pray?<br/> Why do some people pray every day, but other people not at all?<br/> What do I want to find out about prayer?<br/> What do I believe about God?</p> <p>Seeing things from others' perspective<br/> I can listen to and show respect for the views of others<br/> I can empathise with other people and situations through topical issues, problems and events.</p> <p>Why is it important to see things from other people's perspectives?<br/> What is respect?<br/> How can you show respect?</p> | <p>3.3</p> <p>Where do people worship?<br/> Why do people worship?<br/> Why do people worship in particular buildings?<br/> Why are they special?<br/> What would you include in a religious building? Why?<br/> What do these buildings say about God?<br/> What can we tell from these buildings about the people who worship here and the god they worship?<br/> What do these buildings tell you about Muslim/Christian/Hindu beliefs?<br/> What do the buildings tell you about the people who worship here?<br/> What do you think makes these buildings special?<br/> What happens in holy buildings?<br/> Why do we need religious buildings?<br/> What emotions do we feel in holy spaces? Is the whole earth really a holy space? Can people get close to God in holy buildings?</p> <p>I can listen to and show respect for the views of others.</p> <p>Why is it important to see things from other people's perspectives?<br/> What is respect?<br/> How can you show respect?<br/> Awareness of how other children have different lives<br/> What is a stereotype? Should we stereotype people? Do you agree that everyone is entitled to their opinion?</p> | <p>3.4</p> <p>How do beliefs connect to stories in different religions?<br/> Where can you spot different beliefs in these stories?<br/> Who inspires you? Why?<br/> What makes a person inspiring or a role model?<br/> How are these leaders similar? How are they different?<br/> How do stories help us to remember?<br/> Who shows courage?<br/> What can you learn from these stories?<br/> What values do you share?</p> <p>Responsible choices<br/> Seeing things from others' perspective<br/> Making a difference<br/> I can explain how my actions have affected others.</p> <p>Why is it important to see things from other people's perspectives?<br/> Can kindness change the world?<br/> Are you pleased with your behaviour towards others?</p> |
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| Year 4 | <p>4.1</p> <p>Why do some people think life is like a journey?<br/>Where do we go?<br/>What do different people think about life after death?<br/>What do you believe happens when people die? Where do your beliefs come from?<br/>What are some of the main points on your journey of life?<br/>Do you think everyone will go through the same points on their journey? What might affect the points you go through?<br/>How does what someone believes about what happens when we die, affect how they live now?<br/>What have been your key milestones?<br/>What makes them meaningful to you?</p> <p>Challenging assumptions<br/>Judging by appearance<br/>Accepting self and others<br/>Understanding influences<br/>I can tell you about myself (including ethnicity, gender, faith and culture).</p> <p>What would the world be like if we were all the same?<br/>I understand the importance of expressing my feelings.<br/>I use varied vocabulary to express my feelings.<br/>How does it feel to lose somebody that you love?<br/>Is there a special person that you miss?<br/>What memories do you have of them?</p> | <p>4.2</p> <p>What is special about going on a journey?<br/>Why might you go on a journey?<br/>Why do people go on pilgrimages?<br/>How might a pilgrimage help you to understand your beliefs/religion?<br/>Why might a pilgrimage with lots of other people be special?<br/>What is the difference between a pilgrim and a tourist?<br/>If you visit a place that is special or spiritual but not connected to a religion, how is this similar or different to a pilgrimage?<br/>How might a pilgrimage change you or your beliefs?<br/>Where would be a spiritual place for you to visit? What do you think you would gain from going there?<br/>What are the similarities and differences between pilgrimages in different religions?</p> <p>Being part of a class team<br/>Community<br/>Understanding influences<br/>I can tell you about myself (including ethnicity, gender, faith and culture).</p> <p>What is our community?<br/>How would you feel if you achieve your goal?<br/>How has somebody helped you to reach a goal?</p> | <p>4.3</p> <p>Why is music important to Christians?<br/>Does this music create a sense of calm, excitement, the presence of God? Why might people use worship music in church?<br/>Why do Christians use verses from the Bible in their worship songs?<br/>What do the songs tell you about Christian beliefs?<br/>How do the lyrics express worship?<br/>How might music create a sense of worship?<br/>How do these pieces of music make you feel? Why?<br/>Why do we like music? Why does it matter to us?<br/>If you were to write a playlist on spotify or tik-tok called 'spiritual', what songs would be on it? Why?<br/>How has the music Christians use to worship changed over the years? How is it different in different churches?</p> <p>I can respond appropriately to other people's feelings.<br/>Accepting self and others<br/>Identifying how special and unique everyone is<br/>I can tell you about myself (including ethnicity, gender, faith and culture).</p> | <p>4.4</p> <p>How do Hindus celebrate festivals?<br/>Who do Hindus worship and why?<br/>How is this similar or different to my beliefs?<br/>Which festivals do I celebrate? Why and what do they mean to me?<br/>Can you spot deeper meanings to the festivals? Can you see themes such as darkness and light, good and evil?<br/>How are Hindu festivals linked? What common themes do they have?<br/>Why are these festivals important to Hindus? Can you see some similarities to festivals you celebrate?<br/>How do the community get involved in festivals? Why do we celebrate together?<br/>What do you think about on festival days?</p> <p>Community<br/>Accepting self and others<br/>Understanding influences<br/>Identifying how special and unique everyone is</p> <p>What is our community?<br/>What is special about you?<br/>What makes you different?</p> |
| Year 5 | 5.1   | 5.2  | 5.3  | 5.4   |

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| <p>What made this person a leader?<br/>Do these people only inspire those who follow their religion, or others as well?<br/>Why or why not?<br/>What is it about this person that makes them inspirational?<br/>How do leaders provide wisdom and inspiration?<br/>What have these inspirational leaders got in common?<br/>Do we all need role models?<br/>Why do the lives of inspirational people matter? What does it change?<br/>What can we learn from these great and inspiring leaders?<br/>What might it change for us?</p> <p>Global citizenship<br/>Choices, consequences and rewards<br/>Democracy, having a voice<br/>Role-modelling<br/>Making a difference<br/>Cultural differences and how they cause conflict<br/>Racism<br/>Material wealth and happiness<br/>Enjoying and respecting other cultures<br/>Future dreams<br/>Supporting others (charity)<br/>Motivation<br/>I can take responsibility for my own choices and goals.<br/>I can explain how everyone offers a different contribution to a community.<br/>I can help to create a project which will make a difference in the wider community.</p> | <p>What matters most to Christians in their religion?<br/>What is the meaning of Christmas?<br/>What do Christians believe about God?<br/>What do I believe? Why?<br/>Why do Christians put so much emphasis on forgiveness?<br/>How would Christians deal with someone who has done something to upset them? What does the Bible say?<br/>What does communion mean to Christians?<br/>Why do Christians worship God?<br/>Applying Christian ideas to: What is fair and unfair? what is fair and unfair? Why do people fight and cause pain?<br/>How do we know what is good?<br/>Can people learn to be more generous?<br/>Which is most important to Christians – Christmas, Easter, Pentecost or Eucharist?<br/>How are salvation and forgiveness linked for Christians?</p> <p>Material wealth and happiness<br/>Enjoying and respecting other cultures<br/>Goals in different cultures<br/>I can describe the dreams and goals of a young person in a culture different from mine and can reflect on how these relate to my own.</p> <p>Who is more important- me or you?</p> | <p>How does someone's religion make a difference to the way they live? Can you give some examples?<br/>Why do different religions have different ideas?<br/>What do the different religions think about what God is like? What is the same and different?<br/>Why is it important to ask questions about belief and faith?<br/>Why is it important to be able to discuss different ideas?<br/>What do I think about God and faith? Why?<br/>How can I show respect for people whose ideas and beliefs are so different to my own?</p> <p>I can explain how everyone offers a different contribution to a community.<br/>I can describe the dreams and goals of a young person in a culture different from mine and can reflect on how these relate to my own.<br/>Cultural differences and how they cause conflict<br/>Enjoying and respecting other cultures</p> <p>What is a culture?<br/>How can differences cause conflict?<br/>Why do some people have different goals to you?</p> | <p>How are religious and spiritual beliefs expressed in art and architecture?<br/>How are religious and spiritual beliefs expressed in charity and generosity?<br/>How do different religions put their beliefs into action?<br/>Can you build a beautiful house for God and still say you are doing as much as possible for the poor? What is more important?<br/>Why are religious buildings important to people of faith?<br/>What do you think of the idea that worship leads to charity?<br/>Can you see how peoples' beliefs influence their ideas of helping others?<br/>Can you see how a beautiful building might help to develop someone's faith in their religion?<br/>How do art and architecture express religious ideas?<br/>How do religious charities express spiritual ideas? Is it important to express spiritual ideas in both worship and action? How, and why?<br/>Do we need religious buildings to hear God's word about poverty?<br/>Do you treat others as you would like to be treated?<br/>Would you be involved with a charity? Why or why not?<br/>Would the world be a different place if everyone followed the 'love your neighbour' wisdom? Would it always be possible?</p> <p>Being a citizen<br/>Rights and responsibilities</p> |
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|        | <p>What does it mean to be a citizen?<br/>         What does it mean to be treated fairly?<br/>         Can doing something 'bad' ever be the right thing to do?<br/>         What do you think is your most important responsibility?<br/>         Should children be able to vote in elections?<br/>         What is discrimination?<br/>         What is racism?<br/>         What is your dream for the future?<br/>         Does money make the world go round?<br/>         Are there more important things than money?<br/>         What job would you like to do when you are older? How would you become that?<br/>         Would you rather do a job that pays a lot or a job that makes a difference to lots of people?<br/>         Why do some people have different goals to you?<br/>         What is charity?<br/>         Why are charities important?<br/>         What makes you want to do well?</p> |     |     | <p>Making a difference<br/>         I can explain how everyone offers a different contribution to a community.<br/>         I can help to create a project which will make a difference in the wider community.<br/>         Enjoying and respecting other cultures<br/>         Supporting others (charity)<br/>         Motivation</p> <p>What do you think is your most important responsibility?</p> |
| Year 6 | 6.1  | 6.2 | 6.3 | 6.4  |



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| <p>Why is the Bible consistently a best seller?<br/>         Why have religious texts survived for so long where others have disappeared?<br/>         Do religions teach similar things?<br/>         Why are these texts seen as sources of wisdom?<br/>         Where do you find wisdom to live by?<br/>         Where do my moral codes come from?<br/>         What wise words do you live by?<br/>         How do you know what is right and wrong?<br/>         Do you think non-religious people can draw wisdom from religious texts?<br/>         Why do we need wisdom?<br/>         If you had the last piece of paper in the world to write some wise words on, what would they be?<br/>         Where do you think the words in the bible come from? What do you think of the idea that God inspired them? What does this mean to Christians?</p> <p>Choices, consequences and rewards<br/>         Global citizenship<br/>         Children's universal rights<br/>         Perceptions of normality<br/>         Empathy<br/>         Taking personal responsibility</p> <p>I can explain why we have rules and laws.</p> <p>What does it mean to be empathetic?<br/>         Why is this important?<br/>         Who is responsible for your actions?<br/>         How can you make sure you are making positive choices?</p> | <p>What is my community? Why is it important?<br/>         How do I know which religions are present in my community?<br/>         What does the religious make up of my community look like? Why does it look like that?<br/>         Is my community diverse?<br/>         What would it be like without these religions? Would it make a difference?<br/>         Where do my moral codes come from?<br/>         Whose rules do I follow?<br/>         How can we become more respectful?<br/>         How can society become more respectful?<br/>         What do different religious texts say about respect? How does this affect our community?<br/>         Why do things like peace, respect and harmony matter?<br/>         How do we build a peaceful/stronger community?</p> <p>Global citizenship<br/>         Feeling welcome and values<br/>         Choices, consequences and rewards<br/>         Group dynamics<br/>         Democracy, having a voice<br/>         Role-modelling<br/>         Inclusion/ exclusion<br/>         Differences as conflict, differences as celebration<br/>         Empathy<br/>         Making a difference in the world<br/>         Taking personal responsibility</p> <p>What will help us to succeed in working as a group?</p> | <p>Why might people from different religions be involved in looking after the planet?<br/>         Is it only people who are religious who might do this?<br/>         Who sets up charities?<br/>         Why might people set up a charity?<br/>         Does it make a difference if someone is religious?<br/>         Do Christian, Hindu, Muslim... etc beliefs mean they are likely to set up charities to help others?<br/>         Should religious people do more to help the poor/vulnerable? Whose job is it?<br/>         Why are there charities? Should there be?<br/>         If these charities didn't exist what do you think would happen?<br/>         What do you believe? How does it affect your actions?</p> <p>Global citizenship<br/>         Empathy<br/>         Making a difference in the world<br/>         Motivation<br/>         Taking personal responsibility<br/>         Democracy, having a voice<br/>         Role-modelling</p> <p>Can one person change the world?<br/>         What does it mean to make a difference?<br/>         How can you make a difference to the world?<br/>         What motivates you to do well? Do others have different motivations to you? Why?<br/>         Who is responsible for your actions?</p> | <p>What does persecution look like?<br/>         How can people who are persecuted respond?<br/>         How can we be 'upstanders'?<br/>         How can we help to prevent persecution?<br/>         Have I ever experienced a form of persecution?<br/>         How might it feel?<br/>         Why do people persecute others?<br/>         Why does God allow suffering?<br/>         What do Christians say about suffering?<br/>         Who is responsible for suffering?<br/>         Where does persecution start?<br/>         What makes people resist persecution?<br/>         Why do we need to remember these events?</p> <p>Democracy<br/>         Global citizenship<br/>         Children's universal rights<br/>         Feeling welcome and values<br/>         Inclusion/ exclusion<br/>         Differences as conflict, differences as celebration<br/>         Making a difference in the world</p> <p>Can one person change the world?<br/>         What is a power struggle? Why do people struggle for power?<br/>         What is bullying?<br/>         Would the world be a better place if we all looked the same?<br/>         How would you feel if you were excluded from a group?<br/>         What does it mean to be empathetic?<br/>         Why is this important?</p> |
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|  | <p>Is it more important to be right or to be kind?</p> | <p>What does it mean to make a difference?<br/>How can you make a difference to the world?<br/>What motivates you to do well? Do others have different motivations to you? Why?<br/>What does it mean to be empathetic?<br/>Why is this important?</p> |  | <p>What does it mean to make a difference?<br/>How can you make a difference to the world?<br/>Why do some people try to control others?</p> |
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