Name of Unit: How do Easter Symbols help us to Understand the True Meaning of Easter?	Faith: Christianity
Key Stage In Which This Unit Should Be Taught: Key Stage	Recommended Year Group (if specified): Year 2
Previous Learning:	
Foundation Units on Salvation: - Easter Story; Special People.	
(Depending on where this unit is placed in the school's RE Curriculum Map) Why Is	
•	Oo Christians Make and Keep Promises Before God?
ATI Learning About Religion	AT2 Learning From Religion
Focus: Forms Of Expression.	Focus: Identity and Belonging.
What This Unit Teaches:	
This unit covers the different Christian symbols linked to the Easter Story, s life. Lesson 4 should take place in the parish church.	pecifically focusing on the cross and water as symbols of forgiveness and new
Key RE Vocabulary:	Cross-Curricular Links:
Christian; Easter; symbol; cross; Palm cross; bread; wine; crown of thorns;	Maths – sorting;
lamb; Passion Flower; hot cross bun; simnel cake; egg; Easter Egg; water;	Computing – opportunity for research;
Baptism; forgiveness.	Geography – Crosses around the world;
	Art & Design - designing and making, opportunities for creativity and
	expression.
Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development:	Sensitivities:
Appreciation of other faith groups;	Concept of death;
Religious symbols in other faiths;	Pupils from other faiths.
Easter Service / Collective Worship.	
Possible Further Thinking and Extension Activities:	
Further thinking questions for discussion (following lesson 3):	
In some countries people cannot wear crosses - how would that feel? What s	symbols from other faiths are worn?
Opportunity for 'Barnabas in Schools:' Workshops - Lent & Easter and A-cro	ss the World
Possible links with other religions: Islam - Wudu.	
Future Learning:	
Easter People; Easter Holy Communion; What Happens in Churches at Easter	r? How Does The Christian Festival of Easter Offer Hope?
(Depending on where this unit is placed in the school's RE Curriculum Map) - Why	Do People Make and Keep Promises Before God?



Southwark Diocesan Syllabus for Religious Education

Learning Objectives	ATI	AT2	Suggested Teaching Activities	Points To Note / Resources
Session I			Which Story Do the Symbols Belong To?	If this teaching unit is taught in
				Year I, children will need to
Pupils should:			Introduction:	have an awareness and
ATI: Understand what a religious symbol is, recognise religious		✓	Play 'Guess the Symbol' with the pupils. Show the pupils some symbols of different organisations / objects that they will recognise. Ask them to name the organisation / object. Look at the school badge as a symbol. Talk about it.	understanding of the Easter Story. Hard boiled eggs painted red is
symbols of the Easter story and discuss the meaning behind these Christian symbols;			Discuss what a symbols is, where symbols are, what has a symbol, what does a symbol do, etc.	a Greek Orthodox tradition for Easter, representing the tomb stone rolled away.
AT2: Talk about symbols that are important to them and to others with respect for their feelings.	✓		Main Part of the Lesson: Tell the pupils that the RE Subject Leader / Headteacher has given them their new Bible story to look at, but something strange happened – it's not a book that they have been given, they have given us a bag! Ask the pupils to be detectives and 'unlock' the story by feeling the items in a feely bag to work out what it could be. [Palm leaf, cross, bread, bottle of water, egg.] Recap and sequence the Easter Story using visual resources with the pupils. How do our objects from the feely bag fit in with the story? What are each of these objects symbols of? What does each object symbolise? Activity: In small groups, children then place a selection of given symbols, (real or pictures of them,) on the different sections of the story that they feel it goes with, e.g. palm leaves, bread, wine, cross, crown of thorns, lamb, Passion flower, water, red egg, Paschal candle, etc.	Resources: 'Guess the Symbol; 'Feely bag containing objects associated with the Easter Story; Pictures of the Easter Story to sequence; Symbols associated with the Easter Story.

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	✓	•	Discuss: What do the symbols mean? Are they in the correct order? Were there any symbols that didn't fit? What other symbols would you associate with this Christian festival of Easter? (e.g. hot cross buns, simnel cake, chocolate eggs, etc.) List as a class and discuss. Plenary: Reflect on all of the Easter symbols discussed. Show images of the different symbols to remind the pupils. I wonder which means the most to you? Why? Pupils reflect on the different symbols, pick a symbol associated with Easter and draw it in their RE book along with writing about why they chose it, what it represents about the Christian festival of Easter and what the symbol means to them. Extension: Think or draw on a Post- It Note and make a class collage. This can be adapted / added to as the topic progresses.	

Learning Objectives	ATI	AT2	Suggested Teaching Activities	Points To Note / Resources
Session 2			What's The Most Important Symbol from Easter?	Cross curricular links – maths – sorting.
Pupils should:			Introduction:	
ATI:		✓	Recap with pupils what a symbol is and what the purpose of symbols are.	Resources: Symbols to sort;
Identify what some symbols stand for, including Christian			Main Part of the Lesson:	"A-cross the World"
symbols, recognise that the cross is the most important symbol for Christians and understand why; AT2: Understand how different styles	√	*	Have a variety of symbols available for pupils; include the symbols of Easter from the Easter Story and also other secular symbols that may be associated with Easter and / or Spring. Pupils sort the symbols into 2 groups with the following headings: - Christian symbol in the Easter Story; - Not a Christian symbol in the Easter Story. As pupils sort, they should share the significance of each symbol with each other.	by Martyn Payne. Published: Barnabas in Schools. ISBN: 9780857460745 (See resource sheet.)
of crosses might help Christians remember what is important to them.			Once sorted, discuss: ¹ Which ones were difficult to place? Why? ¹ What part of the Easter Story does each symbol represent? ¹ What does each symbol help Christians remember about the meaning of Easter? ¹ Which symbols are special to Christians? ¹ Which symbol is the most important to Christians? Why? (The cross represents the core Christian belief of Jesus dying on the cross and rising again, to mend peoples' friendship with God - salvation.)	
			*Assessment opportunity – ATI to show understanding of symbols for Christian faith & other faiths.	

Learning Objectives	ATI	AT2	Suggested Teaching Activities	Points To Note / Resources
			Walk around the school and see how many different crosses you can	
			see. Record these – take photographs / draw / discuss.	
			Activity:	
	✓		Research different styles of crosses from around the world, e.g.	
			Canterbury Cross, Celtic Cross, Taizé Cross (French,) Central	
			American Cross, South Indian Cross, etc.	
			Each pupil to choose a particular style of cross and make their own	
			personal reproduction of it out of clay or wood, etc.	
			Plenary:	
	✓		Share the different crosses:	
			→ How does each cross symbolise the real meaning of Easter?	
			How will each cross help its owner to remember?	

Learning Objectives	ATI	AT2	Suggested Teaching Activities	Points To Note / Resources
Session 3			What Does the Symbol of The Cross Mean To a Christian?	Homework Opportunity: What
				crosses do you family / friends
Pupils should:			Introduction:	wear?
A.T.	✓	✓	Draw a cross on the board – what does it mean?	What is the story behind them?
ATI:			Ask the pupils to find / research as many different uses of a cross as	Basassass.
use religious words to explore			they can.	Resources:
the cross as a symbol and its			Explore the use of a cross to mean a variety of things, e.g. an event	"The Three Trees" by Angela Elwell Hunt
meaning for Christians;			that has been cancelled, a simple maths sum that someone got wrong, a voting form with a candidate chosen, a sign for crossroads, a	Elwell Hullt
AT2:			signpost for crossroads, an island with a treasure map on it, a symbol	"The Proud Tree" by Luane
compare symbols that influence			on a map for a church without a tower nor a spire, a kiss after a	Roche. (optional additional story)
me with how the symbol of the			name, a cross for Christians.	rteener (opasinar addizionar scory)
cross influences a Christian.			, a d d d d d d d d d d d d d d d d d d	
			Main Part of the Lesson:	
	✓	✓	Read the story of "The Three Trees" by Angela Elwell Hunt	
			What does this story tell you?	
			Discussion in groups:	
			Why do some Christians wear crosses?	
			How does the symbol of a cross influence a Christian?	
			Is there a symbol that influences the pupils in this way?	
			What is the symbol?	
			*Assessment AT2 L3	
			What words can the pupils think of that describe / sum up what the	
			What words can the pupils think of that describe / sum up what the cross means for Christians? (Encourage the pupils to use RE-specific	
			words in their discussion and answers.)	
			Crucifix – reminds Christians particularly of Good Friday: Jesus'	
			death.	

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			Open Cross (without the figure of Jesus) reminds Christians particularly of Easter Day: Jesus' resurrection. Christians believe that the cross shows love, in what way do the pupils think that, for Christians, the cross is a symbol of love? Share ideas and thoughts with the rest of the class. The cross – represents the core Christian belief of Jesus dying on the cross and rising again, to mend peoples' friendship with God, salvation. What symbol would the pupils use for love?	
	✓	√	Activity: Using some of the crosses found last week as possible stimulus, pupils plan, design and make their own cross to depict a Christian's view of the cross. They could use their own symbol of love on their cross. Offer different art resources for the children to use e.g. wood, clay, materials, paint, salt dough, etc.	
			*Assessment opportunity — On their plans, pupils can quote their comments on the creation of their cross and what it represents.	
			The gallery of crosses can be used for display in the school / parish church / on the website as symbols to help remember God's love in the Easter story.	
	✓	√	Plenary: View the pupils' crosses and hear from the makers.	

Learning Objectives	ATI	AT2	Suggested Teaching Activities	Points To Note / Resources
Session 4			How Does the Symbol of Water Relate to Easter?	If possible, lesson on location
				at local church, or invite vicar
Pupils should:			Introduction:	to school.
		✓	Play a sound effect of water, possibly with a visual image, and ask the	
ATI:			pupils to describe what it makes them think of.	*Pupils will particularly focus
Understand the importance of			What do we use water for? Washing, cleaning, drinking, etc.	on Christian Baptism when
water for Christians and how it is used as a Christian symbol,			How precious is water?	they study the teaching Unit: "Why Do People Make and
particularly relating its			Main Part of the Lesson:	Keep Promises Before God?"
symbolism to Easter;	✓	✓	How does the symbol of water relate to the Easter story? Water is used for washing, cleaning, getting rid of dirt and making	
			things new again.	Resources:
AT2:			Water is a symbol of being made clean of forgiveness. Christians	Water music / video for
Reflect on how water			believe that Jesus died and rose again to make right all the things that	Introduction,
symbolises a fresh start for			people had done wrong, to mend people's friendship with God.	(available on YouTube;)
Christians and how they can			Christians believe that God forgives them and brings new life.	
make a fresh start in their life.			The way that people become a Christian is by being Christened /	Vicar / other clergy;
			baptised. Water is used at a person's baptism and it symbolises	Church;
			washing away their old life and sins and cleanses them in baptism for a	
			new life as a Christian with God.	Learning grid with Easter
			Many people get baptized on Easter Sunday.	symbols.
			Also on Easter Day in church, Christians, (particularly Anglicans and	
			Roman Catholics,) are encouraged to renew their baptism vows, the	
			promises that they made or that their parents and godparents made	
			for them when they were baptised. These promises are about trying	
			to be a good Christian and believing and trusting in God.	
			In many churches, water is blessed and the holy water is often	
			sprinkled onto the people as a sign of new life and the promise of this from God.	

Learning Objectives	ATI	AT2	Suggested Teaching Activities	Points To Note / Resources
			Visit the church and ask the Vicar / other clergy to explain about the symbolism of water for a Christian, particularly in its use at Easter. Include baptism. (However please note Point To Note *) Focus on explaining about the renewal of baptismal vows as they are said in the Easter Day Service and the sprinkling of holy water. Pupils could also look around the church for other symbols associated with Easter and the vicar could be asked to support this. Think and reflect: A theme from Easter and baptism is a fresh start. What things can we think of that we have done in the past which we could do differently in the future to give us a fresh start?	
	✓	✓	Pupils to record in their RE books their fresh start and decorate with the symbol of water. Plenary: To conclude unit on the symbols of Easter, show pupil a learning grid with Easter symbols on it. Model rolling the dice to find a square, (along and then up,) pupils then talk about what is in the box from their learning within this teaching unit. *Assessment opportunity: Write down pupils' comments.	