

Artefacts and visual images

7.3

List of examples to support schools addressing the question, 'Are we making the most effective and challenging use of religious artefacts and visual images?'

Teachers have found many ways to use religious artefacts and visual images in order to create memorable learning experiences. The following table lists a number of objectives and ways in which religious artefacts and visual images have been used to achieve them.

Examples of how religious artefacts and visual images might be used

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| To promote knowledge and understanding through demonstration | <i>e.g. holding a demonstration seder (Jewish Passover meal)</i> |
| To promote critical thinking/philosophical enquiry/thinking skills | <i>e.g. using a variety of crosses, crucifixes and 'Risen Christ' crosses to start pupils questioning</i> |
| To stimulate and enrich the senses (NB: especially important for special schools) | <i>e.g. showing the havdalah candle and spices and playing Shabbat music in the Shabbat havdalah ritual</i> |
| To encourage respect and empathy | <i>e.g. in the handling of the Qur'an</i> |
| As part of drama and role play | <i>e.g. role-playing a Hindu wedding</i> |
| To aid reflection or as a focus (perhaps during stilling or as a starting point for a guided reflection) | <i>e.g. using a lighted candle</i> |

Artefacts and visual images

7.3 (Continued)

Examples of how religious artefacts and visual images might be used

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| As a stimulus for creative writing, imagination, poetry or storytelling | <i>e.g. using a strong visual image, such as the Gwalior Fort as a starting point for the Sikh story of the escape of Guru Hargobind</i> |
| To create visual impact, a stimulating and exciting atmosphere or a peaceful and reflective atmosphere | <i>e.g. setting out a Buddha image with offering bowls</i> |
| To add to the quality of collective worship and assembly | <i>e.g. using a series of images in a PowerPoint sequence</i> |
| To promote understanding through kinaesthetic activity | <i>e.g. getting pupils to design and make their own original artefact in order to represent their own ideas/beliefs/values/commitments, and then to explain how the artefact would be used and why</i> |
| To enhance interpretive skills and understanding of symbolism | <i>e.g. looking closely at paintings (famous artwork and/or pupils' own) and determining what 'messages' the artist was trying to convey.</i> |

Related group activity

Review the above list and then respond to the following questions:

- 1** Which of the suggested activities (shown in *italics*) appeal to you most/least? Why?
- 2** Can you think of any other classroom applications that would achieve each/some of the objectives?
- 3** Are there any other objectives, in addition to the above, that could be articulated? What would be an activity, using religious artefacts and/or visual images, that would exemplify each of these additional objectives?