

RE Today: socially distanced learning in groups for 5-14s

C. The walk of faith exploration. A Muslim Example.

These flexible suggestions for teachers provide outdoor or socially distanced learning ideas for groups of pupils in the 5-14 age range. As schools follow demanding guidance about distancing, these ideas can be used creatively with your pupils to provide good RE out of doors or in larger indoor spaces, making a varied learning diet possible. The activities can lead on to individual work at desks, but bring some energy, movement and interaction from RE to the class. Flexible ideas - you can tailor these easily to your needs.

Engaging socially distanced learning

This is one of a series of separate session ideas which we are making available in this learning pack, via the NATRE website.

Each one involves some engaging learning out of doors, or in larger indoor spaces, some thinking all together and some opportunities to take the learning and record thoughts and ideas individually afterwards through good RE writing activities. We hope these ideas will flex across the 5-14 age range.

The activities in this pack are:

- A. The chalk circle of enquiry (you can use masking tape on an indoor floor instead)
- B. 101 words and 30 leaves, 30 pieces of RE knowledge – a religious knowledge memory test. During this activity, a 30 piece factual account of three religions is tested and pupils count their scores with leaves or stones, then retest to improve.
- C. The walk of faith-exploration in 12 steps. In which a faith community's practice is understood at increasing depth, example from Islam
- D. The shouted story. In which a faith story in 40 pieces is related by pupils in groups of 10-30 in size
- E. The Golden Rule explored through movement and decision making.
- F. Feeling sad? Feeling happy? Feeling brave? Feeling miserable? Four squares on the floor to identify your responses, linked to some sacred texts.
- G. Bring It All To Me – a musical lesson derived from the Psalms, holy text for Jewish, Christian and Muslim people.

The Walk of Faith 12-step Exploration

Example: Islam.

Pupils walk round the school's one way system collecting information cards as they go, building up their understanding of Islam in Britain. Each card answers a question set on a previous card. As they walk, they may think or guess an answer.

For this simple knowledge-building idea you will need to make 12 piles of cards from which each pupil in turn will collect one card, and you will need to identify 12 sites around your school's 'one way system' where the pupils can pick up a card, have a bit of a read and then move on thinking about a question. You will need to set up these 12 pick up points in a safe way, and pupils will need a staggered start to the activity, with maybe 30-60 seconds between their starting times. Perhaps have those who start later commence a simple piece of work on paper to come back to later.

This is a nice outdoor lesson, or can be done on a walk around the school's one way system. Explain it like this:

1. You are going to collect 12 connected pieces of information about a religion today.
2. Each time you pick up the information, it is good to read it, and then think about the question it asks you as you walk to the next info-point. Have a pencil with you to make a note of your thought, guess or answer on the card before you get to the next info-point.
3. Each info-point is marked (e.g. with a coloured number or letter card)
4. If you get to an info-point and another learner is there, please wait 2 metres from them to take your turn.
5. When you have all 12 of the pieces of information, then you will be set up to do this piece of work back at your desk: Using the 12 info-points and your own ideas, write a quiz about Islam to try and test your teacher. Make up 6 questions – you can try it out on other learners too.

Variations

Write a set of cards of your own for a different religion.

Get your pupils to create 12 cards for another religion, or 12 cards to take learning about Islam deeper.

Exemplar set of cards with guesses and tasks about Muslims and Islam on the next two pages.

Cards about Islam for Walk of Faith Exploration

Copy enough for pupils to pick up one each.

<p>A. A Mosque is a place where Muslim people pray together. Some mosques have a dome and a tower for the prayer call, named a minaret. In the UK today, there are many more mosques than there used to be because the Muslim community has grown. Guess which year the first British mosque was built.</p>	<p>D. At the last census Britain had, 4.8% of its people said they were Muslims – just less than one out of every 20 people. Many of these people have grandparents who lived in Pakistan, or Nigeria, or Somalia, or Kenya or India, and other countries too. But guess where most British Muslims were born.</p>
<p>B. The first British mosque was built in Woking in Surrey in 1889. Since then, Muslim communities all over the country have made mosques for their prayers. There are about 50 000 Christian churches in the UK, but can you guess how many mosques there are in Britain now?</p>	<p>E. Most British Muslims were born in Britain. The Muslim way of life goes back many centuries to the time of the Prophet Muhammad. The city where he lived is still famous today as the centre of the world for Muslims, and it is where Muslims go on the huge pilgrimage called the Hajj. What is the city called?</p>
<p>C. There are just about 1800 Mosques in the UK today. Some towns and cities like Bradford, Luton, Leicester, Birmingham and London have several mosques but other parts of the UK don't have many Muslim people living in them at all. Overall, guess the percentage of Muslim people in the UK in our census.</p>	<p>F. Makkah is where Muslims go for Hajj (pilgrimage). One of the rituals of the Hajj is often called 'Stoning the Devil'. Pilgrims collect 7 stones to throw at each of three Pillars that stand for the Shaytan or the Devil. That's 21 stones altogether. The pilgrimage is big – guess how many people went in 2019.</p>

<p>G. About 2.5 million people attended the Hajj in 2019, and if each one threw 21 stones at the devil, that makes over 52 million stones. The purpose of this ritual is to 'throw out' all the evil you have done, and become more determined to be a better person. Can you think of 3 examples of evil you think the world should leave behind?</p>	<p>J. Muslims are required to pray 5 times each day, so that makes 140 prayers every 4 weeks, or 1680 prayers in a year. The main point of praying like this is not to ask God to do things for them, but to remember God and submit to God whilst praying – and for all of life. This might sound hard, but it has not stopped Islam from growing to be the world's second largest religion. Out of 7 billion people on earth, how many do you think are Muslims?</p>
<p>H. Many Muslims believe that we should leave greed, selfishness and unfaithfulness behind and try instead to build a better world through generosity, kindness and submission to God. That is why they give away money as part of one of the 5 Pillars of Islam. Can you guess what percentage of their money Muslims give for those less fortunate?</p>	<p>K. Muslims make up about 24% of the population of the world at the moment. That is about 1.8 billion people altogether who follow the way of the Prophet Muhammad. This is a hard one: can you guess which countries have the most Muslims living in them?</p>
<p>I. The Third Pillar of Islam is Zakat, giving 2.5% to help people in need. It means if you have £40, you give one pound away. Another of the Pillars is Salat, daily prayer. Guess how many times a month a good Muslim intends to pray.</p>	<p>L. The three countries with the most Muslims living in them are Indonesia, Pakistan and India, Bangladesh, Nigeria and Egypt. Do you know where in the world these countries are? All across the world, hundreds of millions of Muslims follow the 5 Pillars and try to live by the teachings of the Qur'an.</p>