



Background Information for Teachers

Religion has played an important role in the world. The type of religion has changed from place to place and over different times; however, we still draw many messages from it today. The children will be focussing on Christianity. Here they will explore if Christianity is still a strong religion. The children will explain a range of arguments to suggest Christianity is still a strong religion today and also provide opposing arguments. They will express opinions as to whether Christianity is a strong religion, providing reasoned arguments.

What? (Knowledge)

Do festivals and symbols show Christianity is still a strong religion?

Lent, Ash Wednesday, Easter Sunday, Shrove Tuesday, Advent, Christmas, Harvest are all Christian festivals.

What symbols/objects do we associate with each festival?

Christmas - Celebration which is enjoyed by Christians as a festival of joy and happiness linked to the birth of Jesus Christ

Lent - 40 days before Easter a season of reflection and sacrifice

Cross - People wear a cross which represents Jesus' crucifixion

Easter - Easter eggs represent new life after Jesus' resurrection, bread and wine in communion to represent Jesus' body and blood

Does Christianity motivate people to do good anymore?

There are several Christian charities around the world who are doing really good work to alleviate poverty and deprivation in poor and developing countries. Charities such as Christian Aid and Salvation Army. Do these charities do it work in response to Jesus' teaching to 'Love your neighbour'? (Mark 12:28-31)

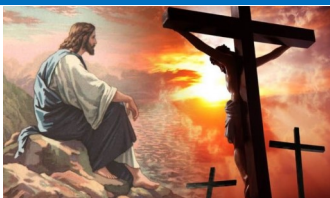
Other Christian influences 2000 years later

People in Britain take the oath in court by swearing on the Bible. The national anthem has reference to 'God save our gracious queen'. The legal system reflects the Ten Commandments.

Christian Buildings

Churches are still used 2000 years later, to praise and worship God. How has St Francis's Church impacted on school life at Priory?

Diagrams, Images and Symbols



What? Vocabulary

Spelling

Definition/Sentence

Festival

Period of celebration, typically religious

Church

Christian place of worship

Symbols

Representation of something of great importance

Charity

Doing good deeds for others without anything in return

Tradition

Activity completed following previous generations and culture

Purpose

The reason for which something is done

Opinions: For and Against

For: Some people believe Christianity is a strong religion today because there are Christian festivals, such as Easter Sunday, Shrove Tuesday and Christmas that many people celebrate. In these festivals Christians remember stories about God and Jesus.

Against: It could be argued that this does not mean Christianity is still a strong religion and that these festivals are merely celebrated because it has become a tradition. There is an argument that Christian beliefs are just celebrated as a form of enjoyment. It can also be thought that Christianity is not very strong any more because not so many people seem to go to church and the shops open on Sundays.

Key Question

Give examples between Christianity now and 2000 years ago?

Has there been any big differences between how people followed Christianity now and 2000 years ago?

What are the similarities between Christianity and other major religions in the world?

What are key festivals celebrated in Christianity and can you give example for each?

What are key learnings you have taken from today's topic?

How does Religion form part of your daily life?