

Progression in CfE RME: Christmas: *Italicised text indicates lines of progression*

NB: The lines of progression in this grid do not equate directly to CfE levels, or to year groups in primary, special or secondary schools: However, they indicate suggested lines of progression within each of the suggested approaches. Entry point to each level of progression is therefore at the discretion of staff according to the cognitive and developmental stage of learners.

Increasing cognitive/developmental complexity illustrating progression 

Suggested Thematic Approach					
Festivals approach (Christianity/ World Religions selected for study and other belief groups)	Christian Christmas Celebrations <i>Exploration of and engagement with features of Christian festival celebrations.</i>	The Festival of Hanukkah <i>Exploration of and engagement with features of festival + comparisons with Christmas.</i>	The Festival of Diwali <i>Exploration of and engagement with features of festival + comparisons with Christmas and Hanukkah.</i>	Fire Festivals around the world <i>Exploration of and engagement with features of festival + comparisons with Christmas, Hanukkah Diwali and increasingly varied and complex themes analysed.</i>	Religious and non-religious Christmas celebration themes <i>Comparing and contrasting the themes present in midwinter festivals based on prior learning: comparisons across religions examined and referenced to non-religious cultural celebrations at Christmas.</i>
Festivals approach (Christianity)	Christmas foods <i>Exploration of Christmas foods and their link to Christianity.</i>	Giving gifts at Christmas <i>Exploration of the Christian symbolism involved in gift-giving.</i>	Light in the darkness metaphors <i>Exploration of wider symbolism in Christian Christmas celebrations.</i>	The Green man and other pre-Christian Christmas celebrations <i>Comparison of Christian symbolism with pre-Christian motifs.</i>	The key themes of Christmas – how far are their origins Christian? <i>Analysis of the relationship between Christian and secular symbolism in midwinter celebrations.</i>

Stories approach (Christianity)	The Nativity story <i>Engaging with the content of the story</i>	Focus on individual characters in the nativity story <i>Engaging with the content of the story from a particular character's perspective and their role in the story.</i>	A critical approach to the nativity story <i>Basic critical reflection upon the content of the story increasing awareness of the multi-layered nature of the story.</i>	Symbolism, myth and metaphor in the nativity story <i>Deeper analysis of the main themes of the story and the structure and form of the story and the relationship between historicity and other genres of writing.</i>	The challenge of the nativity story for contemporary society <i>Further analysis of the themes of the story and link to contemporary significance of story. More complex application to contemporary contexts.</i>
Textual approach (Christianity)	Christmas carols <i>Engaging with the lyrics and messages in carols.</i>	Christmas Carols <i>Engaging with the lyrics and messages in carols and considering their meaning in increasingly varied and complex ways.</i>	Christmas Carols <i>Engaging with the lyrics and messages in carols and considering their relationship to their social and cultural origins.</i>	Christmas Carols <i>Comparison of traditional and contemporary carols and how these reflect historical similarities and differences in belief.</i>	Christmas Carols <i>Comparison and analysis of traditional carols and popular Christmas lyrics which are non-religious in origin – fuller understanding of the relationship between the content of the text and its significance for contemporary Christian life.</i>
Geographical Approach (Christianity)	Christmas in Scottish Churches, Catholic and Protestant <i>Exploration of local church practices at Christmas.</i>	Christmas in the Eastern Orthodox Church (Greece/Russia/Egypt) <i>Comparing local church practices with Orthodox practices at Christmas.</i>	Christmas in the Contemporary Chinese Christian Church (or culture/place relevant to school) <i>Comparison of local, orthodox and contemporary Chinese church practices at Christmas. Increasing awareness of similarities and</i>	Exploration and analysis of Christian Churches where Christmas is not celebrated or aspects or specific aspects of Christmas are celebrated more prominently relative to others.	Comparing and contrasting Christian Christmas around the world <i>Comparing and contrasting key Christian Christmas practices around the world drawing upon a wider range of examples and in increasing depth and complexity.</i>

			<i>differences between Christian Christmas celebrations around the world.</i>	<i>Comparison of local, orthodox and contemporary Chinese church practices at Christmas with analysis of those churches where Christmas celebrations are very different.</i>	
Historical Approach	<i>Christmas celebrations today Identifying key features of contemporary Christmas celebrations.</i>	<i>Victorian Christmas Comparison of Christmas celebrations today and the Victorian origins of many contemporary celebrations.</i>	<i>Christmas during WW1/WW2 Comparing contemporary/Victorian Christmas celebrations with historical periods of WW1/WW2.</i>	<i>Christmas in the middle ages (or other focus period in history) Further analysis of similarities and differences in four historical periods studied so far.</i>	<i>The early origins of Christmas celebrations Comparison of key themes identified so far with the historical origins of Christmas celebrations. Making links between prior learning across historical periods with origins and contemporary celebrations of Christmas.</i>
Historical Approach	<i>The origin of... Christmas cards Exploring styles of Christmas cards since their Victorian origins.</i>	<i>The origin of... the Christmas tree Exploring the role of the Christmas tree through history through its appearance on Christmas cards- increasing complexity of analysis and understanding of the symbolism associated with this image / practice.</i>	<i>The origin of... Christmas foods Considering the role of celebratory foods at Christmas and their symbolism and comparison with symbolism of Christmas trees and Christmas cards.</i>	<i>The origin of... Christmas customs Synthesis and analysis of a range of Christmas customs across Scotland and the world.</i>	<i>The origin of famous Christmas events Further analysis of a range of Christmas customs and their social and cultural origins – potential for contemporary links (e.g. Band Aid etc.) as well as historical events (e.g. performances of Handel’s Messiah at Christmas).</i>

Issues-based approach (Christianity)	Helping others at Christmas <i>Exploring how we can help others at Christmas.</i>	Charity at Christmas <i>Exploring how we can help others at Christmas through charity organisations with Christian origins.</i>	Homelessness at Christmas <i>Exploring how we can help others at Christmas through charity organisations with specific focus on homelessness-increasing awareness of the link between Christian belief and charitable action.</i>	Poverty at Christmas <i>Exploring how we can help others at Christmas through charity organisations with specific focus on poverty and the significance/symbolism of this at Christmas-increasingly complex understanding of the relationship between moral issues and Christian beliefs.</i>	Christmas commercialisation <i>Considering the relationship between a self- and others-centred approach to Christmas in relation to the commercialisation of Christmas. Increasingly complex understanding of the relationship between Christian teachings and belief and contemporary social action.</i>
Moral Issues approach	Who should be thought about at Christmas? <i>Considering people who are important to us at Christmas and how we should behave towards others at Christmas.</i>	The morality of Christmas. A range of possible moral issues topics could be explored in greater depth such as the environmental impact of Christmas cards, turkey mass-production, over-consumption at Christmas.	Contemporary moral issues at Christmas <i>Exploring a wider and more complex range of moral issues linked to Christmas – e.g. ethically sourced Christmas gifts, charity Christmas cards etc.</i>	Contemporary moral issues at Christmas. <i>Extending the range, depth and complexity of study of moral issues at Christmas – e.g. debt issues for families.</i>	Contemporary moral and social issues at Christmas <i>Increasingly varied, deep and complex analysis of factors linked to moral and social issues at Christmas – e.g. consumerism, inequality, media pressure etc.</i>
Philosophical enquiry approaches	Key philosophical questions <i>Exploration in circle time of key philosophical questions about Christmas. Exploring</i>	Key philosophical questions <i>Further exploration of key philosophical questions, exploring philosophical issues in increasing depth: e.g.</i>	Key philosophical questions <i>Exploring philosophical issues in increasing depth and complexity e.g. Considering the right and wrong of</i>	Key philosophical questions <i>Increasing depth and complexity exploring a range of philosophical issues in relation to contemporary beliefs</i>	Key Philosophical questions <i>Further increase in depth of analysis and evaluation linking the key themes of Christmas across a range of philosophical issues. E.g. the relationship between belief</i>

	<p><i>for example, how and why people celebrate it, its link to Christian belief and practice etc. e.g. should non-Christians celebrate Christmas?</i></p>	<p><i>telling the truth in response to an unwanted present etc. + responses from Christianity and World Religions Selected for Study.</i></p>	<p><i>bringing children up to believe in Santa and other truth claims at Christmas+ responses from Christianity and World Religions Selected for Study + non-religious approaches.</i></p>	<p><i>and events – e.g. cease-fires at Christmas during conflicts, shared human values at Christmas, how far Christmas should be a peak for charitable giving or should this be more evenly spread throughout the year+ responses from Christianity and World Religions Selected for Study + non-religious approaches.</i></p>	<p><i>and celebration at Christmas – religious/secular approaches to this time of year – the extent to which political and social action should draw upon key themes around Christmas+ responses from Christianity and World Religions Selected for Study + non-religious approaches.</i></p>
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