

Is light a good symbol for celebration?	Religious Education	Years 3 & 4, Term 2	Year A
Key vocabulary: light, belief, Advent, Diwali, Chanukah, Christingle symbol			
Knowledge and skills: Christian stories are often interpreted by artists. (B13) Christian art has changed over time and reflects the culture where and when it was created. (B14) Diwali is a Hindu celebration marking the triumph of light over darkness , and recalls the return of Rama, Sita and Lakshmana. (B40) Some people believe that all religions stories are made up. (B41) People disagree on the truth of religious texts. (B42) Light is used as a symbol in many religions. (B43) Some people think that only what they can see is real. (B44) Different texts will have different significance depending on people’s beliefs. (B45) Some questions of truth are hard to answer. (B46) <i>Jesus is known as ‘The light of the world.’</i> <i>The Baptism service includes the line: “This is to show that you have passed from darkness into light. Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.”</i> <i>Advent is a time of preparation for Christmas.</i> <i>Advent candle in church - one candle is lit for each Sunday in Advent leading to the fifth candle lit on Christmas morning, representing Jesus.</i> <i>Christingle represents the world (orange), Christ (candle), blood (red ribbon), harvest of world (dried fruits/cloves).</i> <i>Light symbols are often used on Christmas cards.</i> <i>Chanukah is a story from Judaism with a miracle of oil lasting 8 days in the temple.</i> <i>Diwali is a story from Hinduism in which Rama and Sita are rescued and led back by diwas – lights.</i> <i>Consider the impact of light at Christmas and how it is represented in cards.</i> <i>Reflecting upon what light means to them.</i> <i>Applying knowledge by thinking about guiding lights.</i> <i>Considering deeply about light communicating a deeper meaning to believers than to non-believers?</i>		Possible activities: Begin with a reflection in the dark and then light a candle and discuss the children’s feelings about light and dark. Explore the phrase from the baptism service: “This is to show that you have passed from darkness into light. Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father”. How does it feel to be in the dark? How did it feel when a candle was lit? Give a series of statements that the children have to decide are closer to light or dark. Look at a selection of Christmas cards with images of light and discuss why there are so many and which show the meaning of Christmas best? Explore the concept of Jesus as “Light of the World” using the Holman Hunt picture. Look at advent wreaths and the meaning of the candles and the way that a candle is lit through advent. Create a Christingle and take part in the service - devise a prayer or reflection to use. Re-enact the events of Diwali and Chanukah.	
Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education, and Promotion of British Values: Spiritual: Children are reflective about their own experiences about light and candles in church. Moral: They discuss the issues of remembering war casualties and appropriate ways of showing respect. Social: Children co-operate and work in group discussions, sharing opinions. Cultural: They are aware of the significance of remembering troubled times in different cultures, eg Remembrance, Diwali, Chanukah. Democracy is explored throughout this unit by sharing opinions regarding reasons for wars and whether people can share opinions rather than fight? Individual liberty is promoted through participation in discussions and valuing the opinions of others. Promotion of respect is supported through support of children’s differences of both experience and opinion. All views and opinions are listened to and valued. Personal critical thinking skills and encouraged by broadening children’s outlooks by comparing different religious perspectives on war. Tolerance is discussed by looking at belonging to different groups and faiths and how light is used in a peaceful way. The rule of law is explored by looking at the law about killing and how that fits in with war and also how rules affect people so greatly, eg Diwali (banished to forest) Hanukkah and how Jesus challenged the Roman laws (threat).			