

Hyde Park Junior School – Religious Education

Topic: Is it better to express your religion in arts and architecture or in charity and generosity?

Year: 6

Strand: Expressing

Key information

This topic enables pupils to learn from two different religions (Christian and Islam) about why their holy buildings and works of art matter to them as expressions of devotion to God and worship, and about how they practice generosity and charity. Islamic and Christian examples are sometimes criticised by non-religious people, however this view is too simple. Learners benefit from an exploration of these two diverse perspectives, enabling them to shape an informed opinion of their own.

Examples of religious art and architecture.



Christian and Islamic art and architecture.

Christian religious paintings idealise, glorify, suggest and tell the story of the religion. They keep religious traditions alive and make it easier for individuals to visualize a concept or event that is otherwise difficult to imagine through the use of mere words.

Followers of Islam cannot draw Allah because they believe that Allah is perfect and no human being can draw him and they aren't perfect or have all the qualities that Allah has. Islam prohibits drawing images and erecting statues of humans.



Charity within the faiths.

ZAKAT (3rd Pillar of Islam) is the compulsory giving of a set proportion of one's wealth to charity. It is regarded as a type of worship and of self-purification.

Christian Aid is an organisation that works all over the world to try and eradicate poverty. The organisation aims to create a more equal world, where all people have the same opportunities and rights.

Key Vocabulary

Arts	The branches of creative activity, such as painting, music, literature, and dance.
Architecture	The style in which a building is designed and constructed.
Charity	The voluntary giving of help to those in need.
Christian Art	Art which uses themes and imagery from Christianity.
Generosity	Being kind freely giving or sharing.
Geometric	Repeated squares and circles, which may be overlapped and interlaced.
Islamic Art	Art that seeks to portray the meaning and essence of Islam rather than just the physical form.
Representational	Art which aims to depict the physical appearance of things
Value	To rate or scale in usefulness, importance, or general worth
Zakat	One of the five pillars of Islam.

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Questions	Start of unit:	End of unit:
What is Christian art?		
What is Islamic art?		
Where could you see an example of Christian architecture?		
Where could you see an example of Islamic architecture?		
What is Zakat?		
Should people who have a strong faith be generous or charitable?		
Explain your answer.		