

## Medium Term Plan: Religious Education

### Year 6 Buddhism

**Year 6 Key Question (to be used all year):** Is life like a journey?

**Focus Question (for this investigation):** What do we mean by a 'good life'?

#### Concepts:

Transcendence

Belief

Worship

Tradition

Morality

Commitment

Identity

Interdependence

#### Key Vocabulary:

The Buddha – the founder of Buddhism (Prince Siddhartha).

The Four Noble Truths – these comprise the essence of Buddha's teachings.

The Eightfold Path – the path Buddhists must follow to end suffering.

**Prior learning:** This unit will build on your prior learning about life as a journey and deepen their understanding of how people might cope with change and difficulties in life.

#### Core Knowledge: In depth study

- Research the meaning of the word 'contentment' – is it the same as happiness, or something different?
- Share the extract from Roald Dahl's "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" where Veruca Salt's golden ticket is found or watch clip at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9\\_s-OrWz\\_Z8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_s-OrWz_Z8)
- Discuss whether the children think that Veruca's dad was being a good parent in the scene. Did getting the thing that Veruca said she really wanted make her happy? (A possible follow up activity in Guided Reading could be to read and analyse the extract of the factory tour where Veruca's desire for one of Wonka's squirrels leads to her demise.)
- Ask children to make a mind map of what they need to be happy. Give them time to reflect on their mind maps and colour code items into what is truly needed and those things which are actually something extra that they want. Have they included any values or rights? Why do they think people often want more rather than being satisfied with what they have? How does this desire for more affect our happiness?
- Share the story of Prince Siddhartha at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p010xtz3>
- Pause at the point where Prince Siddhartha describes how, despite having everything he is not content. What had his father tried to protect him from? How had he done this? Was he being a good parent?
- Watch the end of the clip and identify the things that Prince Siddhartha saw on his journey that were new and challenging to him. Ask the children to reflect on what each experience taught Prince Siddhartha by writing his diary entry for the evening after his experiences.
- Find out about the Four Noble Truths. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TK-MbNj83NM> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bgcbQnL6-BQ> are useful videos, but are challenging in places, so will need some discussion and explanation. This may also be helpful <https://www.clear-vision.org/Schools/Students/Ages-12-14/Four-noble-truths.aspx>
- The fourth Noble Truth teaches that, in order to achieve virtue, happiness and eventually Nirvana, the Eightfold Path should be followed. Watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RLS81XFzaWw>
- Show a dharma wheel where the Eightfold Path is represented as a wheel with parts of the Path labelled as spokes. Discuss and match statements giving modern examples to the correct part of the path. Where does the Path lead a Buddhist? How does it help them to live in a positive way and share this happiness and contentment with others?
- The path of right concentration is sometimes translated as meditation. Meditation aims to still the mind so that the person doing it can become fully aware. Daily meditation is important for Buddhists in their aim of achieving nirvana and they often choose to start their day by meditating.
- Lead the children in some guided meditation. <http://www.buddhanet.net/e-learning/buddhism/meditate/guide.htm> provides ideas for a number of simple exercises that are suitable for the classroom.
- As a possible assessment activity, use the story and reflection questions at <https://www.retoday.org.uk/media/display/110157.pdf>
- Reflect on happiness. Is it something that we can control? Who or what affects our happiness?

- Ask the children to choose a shape or line to represent a path for their life as they prepare for the change of leaving primary school and starting secondary school. What challenges could there be that will affect their happiness? Who or what could help them to overcome these?
- Discuss what the phrase 'A good life' means to them now in the light of their exploration of this enquiry.

**Key Questions: -**

Where do I find happiness?

How do I cope with the bad aspects of life?

What does a good life look like?

What ingredients are needed for a good life?

What makes us truly happy?

What is true contentment and what does it look like?

What can we do to improve the quality of our lives?

How might it help a Buddhist to live in a positive way, to feel happy with life and to spread this happiness with others?

How and why do Buddhists meditate?

Why is it seen as a good way to start each day?

How might meditation contribute to a good life?

The story of Prince Siddhartha – he has everything money could buy, his life should have been perfect – why did it not make him happy?

Is it possible to improve life by ceasing to want more?

**Wider Influences: worth being familiar with**

- Temple – place of worship
- Aids used in meditation – Buddhist rosaries
- The 4 Noble Truths: all things are impermanent and so cannot bring about true happiness.
- Meditation – how and why it is carried out
- The story of Prince Siddhartha
- <http://www.buddhanet.net/e-learning/buddhism/meditate/guide.htm> - Guided meditation

**Enduring Understanding:**

- To analyse Buddhist beliefs and teachings about how to be content
- To make links between the story of the life of Prince Siddhartha and Buddhist beliefs and teachings about The Four Noble Truths
- To describe and explain what is involved in following the Eight-Fold Path of Buddhism – and its impact on daily life.