KS1 Compulsory Unit: God (Islam)

Suggestions for Teaching and Learning

By Gillian Georgiou, Diocesan RE Adviser



The questions we might ask:

- How is Allah described in the Qur'an?
- What do Muslims learn about Allah and their faith through the Qur'an

The ideas we might explore

- One God (*tawhid*), created the universe in harmony
- Created human beings to help keep the universe in harmony
- Provided a straight path (*shariah*) to help keep the universe in harmony
- Provided guidance to help humans follow the straight path (Qur'an, prophets, natural world)
- 99 Names of Allah ways in which Muslims try to understand what God is like (not 100 because you can never fully know God)
- Qur'an = holy book of Islam; the words of God, providing guidance for human beings
- Prophet Muhammad the final prophet; receives guidance (i.e. the Qur'an) directly from God, lives it out in his own life and leads people along the straight path
- The story about the Prophet Muhammad receiving the Qur'an (the 'Night of Power')

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Beliefs about God	Mind-map – what is God like? Key words – expect lots from Christianity. If using drawings, use targeted questions to probe more deeply (thinking), e.g. 'why is he a boy?', 'why is he so old?'
	Believing:
	Identify key characteristics:
	Creator
	Loving
	Powerful
	Fair (Just)
	Forgiving
	Create artworks to reflect these key characteristics

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Muslims beliefs about God –	Believing:
the oneness of God (tawhid)	Muslims believe in one God, who is unique and indivisible:
	Maths activities: different parts of a shape to build a whole shape: what shapes have you got on your desk, try and put them together; how many different ways can you make 1? (Halves and quarters)
	Construction activity: Jenga game with something precious on top – which is better, all the blocks in one tower, or the blocks being taken away?
	Art activity: blob of plasticine – how many things can you make out of this?
	Connections with Muslim beliefs about God – one God, strong/powerful without needing anything else to make him stronger/more powerful, can make everything – very creative
	99 Names of Allah – different names to show different characteristics of the one God

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Creation and Harmony	Recap Christian creation story and its moral
	Delite de e
	Believing: Muslim creation story (sequence bits of text from the Qur'an storybook)
	Muslim creation story (sequence bits of text from the Qui an storybook)
	Compare and contrast – what is the same and what is different between the Christian and Muslim stories?
	Muslims believe God made the world exactly as he wanted it to be – in harmony (muslim)
	Create puzzle pieces with the story of creation – could use words or pictures (DON'T DRAW GOD)

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Human beings and	the
straight path	

A race between two teams, one has obstacles, one doesn't. Obstacle course – which is easier, the course with no obstacles, or the course with obstacles?

Thinking:

Why do we have rules in our school? How do they help us follow a straight path in school? The idea of a straight path as both physical and moral (to do with the choices we make and the actions we take).

Believing:

Recap Muslim beliefs: one God, created the world as he wanted it to be – in harmony (muslim), created human beings.

In Islam, special job for human beings = to keep things in harmony = the straight path; what might they need to help them do this?

Special job for human beings: special jobs that human beings do (e.g. teacher, doctor, army, police, etc.) – what do they need to help them do their job? E.g. ambulance driver, uses siren and flashing light to clear a straight path.

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Guidance

Believing:

Follow a path blindfolded, then pair up and repeat the activity – which one is easier and why?

Recap Muslims beliefs about God: one God, created the world as he wanted it to be – in harmony (**muslim**), created human being, given them a special job to keep things in harmony.

Guidance: why might we need a helping hand to follow the straight path? E.g. those who help us make good choices at school

What do Muslims have to help them follow the straight path?

- 1. The natural world what do plants need to help them grow? How does the natural world provide this for them?
- 2. The Qur'an special books that help us make good choices (pupils could make a book of guidance for Reception class on reading, e.g. importance of practising reading at home, using the school library, working hard in phonics groups, etc.)
- 3. The Prophets special people who help us make good choices (dilemmas who would you go to to help you solve this dilemma?)

Build a display throughout the lesson to make links between activities and Muslim beliefs about God, the world and human beings (e.g. photos of pupils carrying out these activities).

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Muhammad and the Qur'an

Return to the display to ensure pupils are making the connections between previous activities and Muslim beliefs about God, the world and human beings.

Believing:

Who is Muhammad? Prophet – special person to help Muslims make good choices. Some setting of historical and geographical context – timelines/chronology and map of the world

Activity: follow the instructions to complete the task – give 2/3rds of groups instructions in English and 1/3rd instructions in Welsh. How easy is it to complete the task if you can't access the instructions? How did you feel? What was the solution?

Introduce story of Muhammad receiving the Qur'an from the Angel Jibril (video, storytelling, etc.); how do you think Muhammad felt when he couldn't write down what the Angel wanted him to record? What was the solution to the problem in this case? (Qur'an = the Arabic word for 'recite'; Muhammad returns and asks for help to record the words he has memorised).

Pupils to sequence the story (bits of text, they need to order themselves correctly, then read out their bit of the story)

Why is this story (and this book) so important? Make links with the idea of God, harmony and the special job that Muslims believe human beings have.