

Discovery RE and Understanding Christianity: can they be used together?



What do they share in common?

- Both resources seek to provide teachers with practical tools to use in the classroom to improve the quality of RE.
- Both resources use an enquiry method and key questions.
- Both resources can be used in all school sectors

How do they differ?

- Discovery RE covers the 6 principal world religions while Understanding Christianity seeks to cover only Christianity
- Discovery RE is based on a 4 step enquiry model: Understanding Christianity on a 3 step enquiry model that flows between Text: Impact: Connections
- Understanding Christianity delivers progression through exploring core Christian concepts while Discovery RE explores core concepts and beliefs through key questions.

So how do their approaches match up?

	
Engagement Explore the core concept/underpinning experience within the child's own world	'You might like to start with' A bridge between pupils' experience and wider concepts and questions explore in biblical texts.
Investigation Step into the world of religion and learn about it and the application of beliefs	Making sense of text/Understanding the impact; An exploration of the ways in which Christian engage with religious text and how they live in the light of these texts
Evaluation (impersonal) Apply critical and evaluative thinking skills to the key question and weigh up evidence	Outcomes and Building blocks Assessment is organised around core knowledge and building toward end of phase outcomes
Expression (Personal) Express personal impact and opinions	Making connections to make connections beyond the concepts with other learning, including pupils' own responses. To challenge the ideas studied and pupils' own thinking

The two resources are complementary but they are distinct. Understanding Christianity cannot be used to replace Discovery RE and Discovery RE cannot be used to deliver Understanding Christianity. They can, however, be used together to deliver an holistic and balanced RE programme. This can be achieved by:

Replacing the Discovery RE Christianity enquiries with Understanding Christianity units, thus ensuring clear progression of learning of the core concepts, one of the main aims of the Understanding Christianity approach.

Over KS1 and KS2, Discovery RE gives 18 blocks of teaching time to Christianity enquiries (teachers choosing which enquiries to deliver from 18 which focus on core Christian concepts and a further 4 focusing on broader aspects of Christian belief and practice); while Understanding Christianity has 19 units of work all with specific focus on core Christian concepts. There is therefore sufficient curriculum space to deliver Understanding Christianity within a Discovery RE programme without affecting the teaching of other faiths.

A suggested model of how this can be done is available at

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How could UC units work within the Discovery RE programme: an example overview

Overview Years F1/2 to Year 6

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
F1/2	<p>Theme: Special People</p> <p>Key Question: What makes people special?</p> <p>Religion: Christianity, Judaism</p>	<p>UC Concept: Incarnation</p> <p>Key Question: Why do Christians perform Nativity plays at Christmas?</p> <p>Religion: Christianity</p> <p>UC</p>	<p>Theme: Celebrations</p> <p>Key Question: How do people celebrate?</p> <p>Religions: Islam, Judaism</p>	<p>UC Concept: Salvation</p> <p>Key Question: Why do Christians put a cross in an Easter garden?</p> <p>Religion: Christianity</p> <p>UC</p>	<p>Theme: Stories</p> <p>Key Question: What can we learn from stories?</p> <p>Religions: Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism</p>	<p>Theme: Special Places</p> <p>Key Question: What makes places special?</p> <p>Religions: Christianity, Islam, Judaism</p>
1	<p>UC Concept: Creation</p> <p>Key Question: Who made the world?</p> <p>Religion: Christianity</p> <p>UC</p>	<p>UC Concept: Incarnation</p> <p>Key Question: Why does Christmas matter to Christians?</p> <p>Religion: Christianity</p> <p>UC</p>	<p>Theme: Jesus as a friend</p> <p>Key Question: Was it always easy for Jesus to show friendship?</p> <p>Religion: Christianity</p>	<p>UC Concept: Salvation</p> <p>Key Question: Why does Easter matter to Christians?</p> <p>Religion: Christianity</p> <p>UC</p>	<p>Theme: Shabbat</p> <p>Key Question: Is Shabbat important to Jewish children?</p> <p>Religion: Judaism</p>	<p>Theme: Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur</p> <p>Key Question: Are Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur important to Jewish children?</p> <p>Religion: Judaism</p>
2	<p>Theme: What did Jesus teach?</p> <p>Key Question: Is it possible to be kind to everyone all of the time?</p> <p>Religion: Christianity</p>	<p>UC Concept: Gospel</p> <p>Key Question: What is the good news that Jesus brings?</p> <p>Religion: Christianity</p> <p>UC</p>	<p>Theme: Passover</p> <p>Key Question: How important is it for Jewish people to do what God asks them to do?</p> <p>Religion: Judaism</p> <p>Theme: Prayer at home</p> <p>Key Question: Does praying at regular intervals every day help a Muslim in his/her everyday life?</p> <p>Religion: Islam</p>	<p>UC Concept: God</p> <p>Key Question: What do Christians believe God is like?</p> <p>Religion: Christianity</p> <p>UC</p>	<p>Theme: The Covenant</p> <p>Key Question: How special is the relationship Jews have with God?</p> <p>Religion: Judaism</p> <p>Theme: Community and Belonging</p> <p>Key Question: Does going to the Mosque give Muslims a sense of belonging?</p> <p>Religion: Islam</p>	<p>Theme: Rites of Passage and good works</p> <p>Key Question: What is the best way for a Jew to show commitment to God?</p> <p>Religion: Judaism</p> <p>Theme: Hajj</p> <p>Key Question: Does completing Hajj make a person a better Muslim?</p> <p>Religion: Islam</p>

3	<p>Theme: Diwali</p> <p>Key Question: Would celebrating Diwali at home and in the community bring a feeling of belonging to a Hindu child?</p> <p>Religion: Hinduism</p> <p>*Theme: The Amrit Ceremony and the Khalsa</p> <p>Key Question: Does joining the Khalsa make a person a better Sikh?</p> <p>Religion: Sikhism</p>	<p>UC Concept: Incarnation</p> <p>Key Question: What is Trinity?</p> <p>Religion: Christianity</p>	<p>UC Concept: Creation/Fall</p> <p>Key Question: What do Christians learn from the creation story?</p> <p>Religion: Christianity</p>	<p>UC Concept: Salvation</p> <p>Key Question: Why do Christians call the day Jesus died 'Good Friday'?</p> <p>Religion: Christianity</p>	<p>*Theme: Hindu Beliefs</p> <p>Key Question: How can Brahman be everywhere and in everything?</p> <p>Religion: Hinduism</p> <p>*Theme: Sharing and Community</p> <p>Key Question: Do Sikhs think it is important to share?</p> <p>Religion: Sikhism</p>	<p>*Theme: Pilgrimage to the River Ganges</p> <p>Key Question: Would visiting the River Ganges feel special to a non-Hindu?</p> <p>Religion: Hinduism</p> <p>*Theme: Prayer and Worship</p> <p>Key Question: What is the best way for a Sikh to show commitment to God?</p> <p>Religion: Sikhism</p>
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4	<p>Theme: Beliefs and Practices</p> <p>Key Question: How special is the relationship Jews have with God?</p> <p>Religion: Judaism</p> <p>Theme: Buddha's teachings</p> <p>Key Question: Is it possible for everyone to be happy?</p> <p>Religion: Buddhism</p>	<p>UC Concept: People of God</p> <p>Key Question: What is it like (for Christians) to follow God?</p> <p>Religion: Christianity</p>	<p>Theme: Passover</p> <p>Key Question: How important is it for Jewish people to do what God asks them to do?</p> <p>Religion: Judaism</p> <p>Theme: The 8-fold path</p> <p>Key Question: Can the Buddha's teachings make the world a better place?</p> <p>Religion: Buddhism</p>	<p>UC Concept: Easter</p> <p>Key Question: Is forgiveness always possible for Christians?</p> <p>Religion: Christianity</p>	<p>Theme: Rites of Passage and good works</p> <p>Key Question: What is the best way for a Jew to show commitment to God?</p> <p>Religion: Judaism</p> <p>Theme: The 8-fold path</p> <p>Key Question: What is the best way for a Buddhist to lead a good life?</p> <p>Religion: Buddhism</p>	<p>UC Concept: Kingdom of God</p> <p>Key Question: When Jesus left, what was the impact of Pentecost?</p> <p>Religion: Christianity</p>
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5	<p>*Theme: Belief into action</p> <p>Key Question: How far would a Sikh go for his/her religion?</p> <p>Religion: Sikhism</p> <p>*Theme: Prayer and Worship</p> <p>Key Question: What is the best way for a Hindu to show commitment to God?</p> <p>Religion: Hinduism</p>	<p>*Theme: Beliefs and moral values</p> <p>Key Question: Are Sikh stories important today?</p> <p>Religion: Sikhism</p> <p>*Theme: Hindu Beliefs</p> <p>Key Question: How can Brahman be everywhere and in everything?</p> <p>Religion: Hinduism</p>	<p>UC Concept: Incarnation</p> <p>Key Question: Was Jesus the Messiah?</p> <p>Religion: Christianity</p>	<p>*Theme: Beliefs and moral values</p> <p>Key Question: What is the best way for a Sikh to show commitment to God?</p> <p>Religion: Sikhism</p> <p>*Theme: Beliefs and moral values</p> <p>Key Question: Do beliefs in Karma, Samsara and Moksha help Hindus lead good lives?</p> <p>Religion: Hinduism</p>	<p>UC Concept: Salvation</p> <p>Key Question: What do Christians believe (What did Jesus do to save Human Beings?)</p> <p>Religion: Christianity</p>	<p>*Theme: Prayer and Worship</p> <p>Key Question: What is the best way for a Sikh to show commitment to God?</p> <p>Religion: Sikhism</p> <p>*Theme: Beliefs and moral values</p> <p>Key Question: Do beliefs in Karma, Samsara and Moksha help Hindus lead good lives?</p> <p>Religion: Hinduism</p>	<p>UC Concept: God</p> <p>Key Question: What does it mean (for Christians) if God is holy and loving?</p> <p>Religion: Christianity</p>
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6	<p>Theme: Beliefs and Practices</p> <p>Key Question: What is the best way for a Muslim to show commitment to God?</p> <p>Religion: Islam</p>	<p>Theme: Beliefs and moral values</p> <p>Key Question: Does belief in Akhirah (life after death) help Muslims lead good lives?</p> <p>Religion: Islam</p> <p>NB: This enquiry is taught in 2 sections over the term</p>	<p>Theme: Christmas</p> <p>Concept: Incarnation</p> <p>Key Question: How significant is it that Mary was Jesus' mother?</p> <p>Religion: Christianity</p> <p>UC Concept: Gospel</p> <p>Key Question: What would Jesus do?</p> <p>Religion: Christianity</p>	<p>UC Concept: Creation</p> <p>Key Question: Creation and science: conflicting or complementary?</p> <p>Religion: Christianity</p>	<p>UC Concept: Salvation</p> <p>Key Question: What difference does the resurrection make for Christians?</p> <p>Religion: Christianity</p>	<p>UC Concept: Salvation</p> <p>Key Question: What difference does the resurrection make for Christians?</p> <p>Religion: Christianity</p>
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