

## Definitions of Concepts

The Oxford English dictionary defines 'concepts' as '**abstract ideas**'. It is helpful in religious education to identify concepts within three groupings; (as identified in 'Primary Religious Education – 'A New Approach', 2011):

**Type A** - Concepts common to religions and to secular belief systems; eg love, peace, justice, suffering, freedom, hope, change.

**Type B** - Concepts common to many religions; eg God, worship, ritual, faith, holiness, salvation, sacred, prayer

**Type C** - Concepts particular to a specific religion/belief system; eg Islam: Ibadah, Tawhid, Umma

Pupils may engage with different concepts in different stages of their primary education and revisit them at intervals as appropriate. All pupils should study Christianity throughout the key stages but will only visit the concepts within their chosen religion if the school studies them.

*Listed below is a suggested list of concepts for Key stages 1 and 2 but they can be revisited at any Key Stage.*

Religion	Key Stage 1	Key Stage 2
Christianity	God's love incarnation good news Christian community faith	Trinity salvation /reconciliation Church-Christian community good news resurrection faith repentance sin Kingdom of God

Religion	Key Stage 1	Key Stage 2
Buddhism	dukkha	enlightenment/nirvana karma anicca nirodha samsara samudaya sangha
Hinduism	avatar aum	Brahman karma reincarnation atman ahisma
Judaism	covenant redemption	covenant Israel Yahweh Zion
Sikhism	Prem panth	dharma equality panth prem kirat karna

## Concepts: Buddhism

**Anatta/Anatman:** no self; no soul. No real or permanent self.

**Anicca/Anitya:** impermanence; transience, the continual changing nature of worldly existence.

**Avidya:** ignorance or delusion.

**Bhavana:** mental development/discipline. Also, meditation/formal training. The seventh and eighth steps on the eightfold path, or middle way, taught by the historical Buddha.

**Brahma Viharas** (Pali): the four sublime states- loving kindness, compassion, sympathetic joy, and evenness of mind.

**Buddhahood:** a state of being enlightened or awakened and seeing things as they really are.

**Dukkha/Duhkha:** suffering, illness, imperfection.

**Dharma/Dhamma:** teachings of the Buddha - the truth about the way things are.

**Enlightenment:** the attainment of Nirvana by the Buddha under the Bodhi tree. Buddhists say that this state defies description.

**Kamma/Karma:** the law by which one's actions result in a higher or lower rebirth according to whether one's actions have good or bad effects.

**Karuna:** compassion, one of the two aspects of enlightenment.

**Nibbana/Nirvana:** Enlightenment. The extinguishing of the fires of greed, hatred and ignorance and the state of secure perfect peace that follows.

**Nirodha/Nirodha:** cessation. The third of the Four Noble Truths, that craving and therefore dukkha can be overcome.

**Panna/Prajna:** wisdom. The second of the aspects of Enlightenment. Understanding the true nature of things. One of the two principle characteristics of a Buddha or Bodhisattva, the other being compassion.

**Parinibbana/Parinirvana:** final and complete Nirvana reached at the passing away of a Buddha.

**Pratitya Samutpada/Paticca Samuppada:** a description of reality, denoting that all phenomena are causally linked.

**Samsara:** the continual cycle of birth, sickness, old age and death.

**Samudaya/Samudaya:** origin. The second of the Four Noble Truths, that craving is the origin of dukkha.

**Sangha:** the community of Buddhist believers.

**Tanha:** craving. Attachment to wanting or desiring.

**Three fires/poisons:** greed, hatred and ignorance. The three qualities that keep the unenlightened locked in the endless round of samsara.

**The Middle Way:** the rejection of extremes of luxury or of asceticism. This is a philosophical concept as well as a lifestyle.

**Tiratana/Tiratna:** The Three Jewels. Buddha, the Dhamma and the Sangha. A source of guidance and support for Buddhists.

## Definitions of Concepts: Christianity

**Christian Community:** church. The whole community of Christians who worship together.

**God's Love:** creation, peace, grace, agape. The love freely given and unmerited favour of God's love for humanity.

**Incarnation:** logos. The doctrine that God took human form in Jesus Christ. It is also the belief that God in Christ is active in the Church and in the world.

**Good News:** gospel.

**Discipleship:** covenant. The promises of God in covenant relationship with his disciples.

**Kingdom of God:** prophecy, the reign and rule of God.

**Reconciliation with God:** temptation, forgiveness, salvation. The human process of reconciling Christians with God through God's forgiveness of sins.

**Redemption:** set free bought back. Derived from the practice of paying the price of a slave's freedom; and so, the work of Jesus Christ in setting people free through his death.

**Repentance:** turning away from sin and acknowledging the need of transformation.

**Resurrection:** eternal life, hope. The rising from the dead of Jesus Christ on the third day after the crucifixion. The rising from the dead of believers at the last day. The new, or risen, life of Christians.

**Salvation:** the act of being free from/rescued from and drawn back to God. The state of being saved or protected from harm, risk, etc.

**Sin:** rebellion or disobedience against the known will of God.

**Trinity:** three persons in one God; doctrine of the three-fold nature of God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

## Definitions of Concepts: Hinduism

**Ahimsa:** non-violence. Respect for life.

**Atman:** the part of Brahman that is in everyone.

**Aum:** sacred symbol and vocal sound representing the sound of the world and all other sounds, pronounced "om".

**Avatar:** an incarnation of God in bodily form on earth.

**Brahman:** the Supreme Spirit who is present in all things and gives all earthly things life. Brahman is manifest in three main deities, Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva.

**Darshan:** literally "seeing". It refers to being seen by God and thus blessed.

**Dharma:** religious duty, living life to the best of one's ability to achieve good karma.

**Karma:** the law by which one's actions results in a higher or lower rebirth according to whether one's actions have good or bad effects.

**Maya:** the form and nature of the created world, ultimately illusory or masking the true reality.

**Moksha:** liberation or release from Samsara, the continual cycle of birth, sickness, old age and death.

**Reincarnation:** the rebirth of the soul into another body after death.

## Definitions of Concepts: Islam

**Akhirah:** life after death, the hereafter.

**Akhlaq:** a Muslim's religious duty to please God through conduct, character and attitudes.

**Dhikr:** remembrance of Allah on one's heart or by reciting his names or sections from the Qur'an.

**Halal:** any actions or thing which is permitted or lawful.

**Haram:** anything unlawful or not permitted.

**Islam:** submission to the will of Allah, leading to peace.

**Jihad:** individual striving toward Allah (greater Jihad), preventing the corruption of Allah's creation (lesser Jihad).

**Mumin:** faithful. A believer, a practising Muslim who wholeheartedly yields to Allah's guiding wisdom and is thus in harmony with Allah's will and at peace with himself and others.

**Qadar:** Allah's complete and final control over the fulfillment of events or destiny.

**Shirk:** putting someone or something as being equal to or above Allah. This is forbidden in Islam.

**Tawheed:** the oneness of God and creation.

**Umma:** the community of Muslims worldwide.

**Zakah:** purification of wealth by payment of annual welfare due. An obligatory act of worship.

## **Definitions of Concepts: Judaism**

***Covenant:*** the agreement made between God and the Jewish people involving promise and obligation.

***Israel:*** worldwide Jewish community.

***Kedusha:*** holiness. Reflecting God's holiness on one's own life.

***Mashiach:*** Messiah, the anointed one to deliver the world into the Messianic Age.

***Redemption:*** God's promise, in the covenant, to release the world from its fallen sinful state.

***Shekhinah:*** the presence of God.

***Tzedaka:*** righteousness. An act of charity.

***Zion:*** the idea of perfection when the Messianic Age comes.

## **Definition of Concepts: Sikhism**

**Akal Purah:** the Eternal One.

**Bani/Shabad:** revelation of God's word.

**Daya:** compassion.

**Dharam:** living life to the best of one's ability to achieve good karma.

**Equality:** all people are equal whatever their gender or social position.

**Gurmat:** the Guru's guidance.

**Gurmukh:** God centredness; putting God first in one's life.

**Haumai:** pride or ego.

**Hukam :** God's will.

**Ik Onkar:** the symbol that conveys the belief that there is only one God.

**Jot:** soul. The divine light.

**Karma:** the law by which one's actions result in higher or lower rebirth according to whether one's actions have good or bad effects.

**Kirat Karna:** earning a living by honest means.

**Manmukh:** self – centredness, putting humans before God.

**Maya:** illusion; the form and nature of the created world, ultimately illusory or masking the true reality.

**Mukti:** liberation from Samsara, the cycle of birth and death.

**Nadar:** the grace of the Guru.

**Nam Japna:** meditation on God's name.

**Nam Simran:** remembering/repeating

**Niguna:** the concept of God as One and formless.

**Nimrata:** humility.

**Nirgun:** God is above and beyond creation (transcendent).

**Panth:** the Sikh community.

**Prem:** love.

**Reincarnation/rebirth:** rebirth of the soul into another body after death.

**Samsara:** the cycle of life and death.

**Sargun:** God is everywhere and in everything (immanent).

**Sewa:** selfless service of others.

**Vand Chakna:** charitable sharing of time talents and earning with those less fortunate.

**Waheguru:** God's name.