



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Other Faith and Religion Judaism – YEAR 3

### \*Note to teachers/parents and carers.

This work comes from the Come and See Religious Education programme which is taught in all Catholic primary schools in the Archdiocese of Liverpool. We have given a general guide to the learning opportunities that children may have come across under normal timetabling in school. We have suggested and selected a small amount of the programme. The activities aim to keep Religious Education practical and fun. They are in Year groups however, there is no harm in completing other year group work as this will help children to remember and strengthen their learning. It is important to teach Judaism since 'Christians and Jews have such a common spiritual heritage'.

The first part of learning is called – **LOOK** This shares an aspect of Judaism to help enrich children's knowledge of another Faith or Religion. The second part, called – **DISCOVER AND RESPECT**: is when children are given the opportunity to reflect on what they have learnt, appreciated and respected and what it means for the followers of that religion.

**It is important to note that this is not taught as a comparative to Christianity but as a separate Faith with its own rich and diverse heritage.**

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – Judaism YEAR 3 – There are special places: The synagogue

### LOOK – Special places

Think about what makes a place 'special'?

What is an important place for you? Where is it? Do you meet other people there or do you like to go on your own? How does being in this place make you feel? Why do you think you its special?

### DISCOVER – Inside the synagogue the Jewish place of worship

The synagogue is a special building where the Jewish community meet to pray, study and celebrate. If possible, synagogues are built facing in the direction of where the Temple was in Jerusalem. Jewish people often call the synagogue the *shul* which is a Yiddish word for school.



The outside of the synagogue might be decorated with a design of a menorah, or a six-sided star, called the 'Star of David' and the name of the synagogue in Hebrew letters. There are no statues or representations of the faces of people because for the Jewish people that would be going against the second of The Ten Commandments which says you must not worship images you have made.

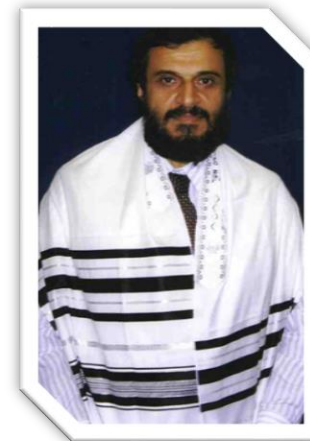


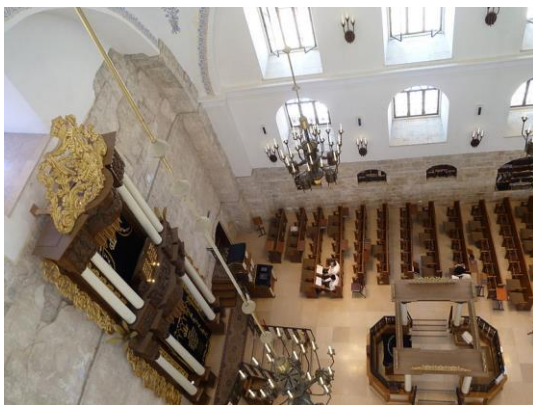
When boys and men go into the synagogue they must cover their heads. The little round hat they wear is called a kippah. Often women covered their heads too. The men often wear a *tallit* that is a prayer shawl over their shoulders. These are worn as a sign of respect and as a

reminder of God's presence.



Here are some pictures of the 'kippah' and people wearing them. Jewish boys and men wear the kippah to show their respect for God. Below are some pictures of men wearing the 'tallit' or prayer shawl.





Click on the link below to watch a BBC Bitesize video which takes you on a tour of a virtual synagogue.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/z834wmn>

Each synagogue may be a little different inside, as Jewish people practise their faith in different ways depending upon which group they belong to. Sometimes women and men sit separately. At the front of the synagogue there is a cupboard covered by a curtain called the Ark where the Torah or holy scrolls are kept. This is a reminder of the Holy of Holies in the Temple in Jerusalem. The scrolls inside have velvet covers and are beautifully decorated. Each scroll is a very long, some are about 100 metres long, made up of pieces of parchment joined together. Each Torah is carefully handwritten in Hebrew and mounted on wooden rollers.

Above the Ark there is a lamp hanging from the ceiling, like the one that used to be in Temple in Jerusalem. The lamp is always kept lit. It is called in Hebrew the Ner Tamid, which means the “eternal light”.

In front of the Ark is the ‘bimah’ a raised platform with a readers’ desk from where the Torah scrolls are read. The rabbi, who is the religious leader and teacher, leads the service in the synagogue. He helps people to understand God’s word in the Torah. Sometimes other people will lead the service.

The Sefer Torah scrolls are very precious to Jewish people. They are the first five books of the Jewish Bible and are a collection of God’s laws and commandments and stories which the Jewish people try to live by. Synagogues throughout the world read the same section of the Torah, this section changes every week. It is an honour to be asked to read from the scroll. On Shabbat, the Torah scrolls are taken out of the Ark and carried round the synagogue whilst everyone stands and sings. The reader does not touch the scroll they use a yad (you can see it on the picture) to keep their place whilst they are reading.



## DISCOVER AND RESPECT – The synagogue is a community centre and respect for the importance of the synagogue.

After the Shabbat service, people meet in the hall for drinks, cake and biscuits. First of all, a blessing is said over bread and wine. This is called a *Kiddush*, which is the Hebrew word for “blessing”. This is the opportunity to meet people and socialise. During the week, the synagogue is busy with activities. Often there is a Torah study group for teenagers and lessons for younger children who can learn to read Hebrew so they can follow the services. They learn about Old Testament Bible stories, the festivals and Hebrew songs. Adults too have education groups. Some might be about preparing and cooking special Jewish food. There are friendship or lunch clubs for older people.

Lots of people help with the running of the synagogue/*shul*. There is a person called a *shamas*, who makes sure everyone has a seat during the service, chooses readers and afterwards tidies up the books. When everyone has gone he locks up the synagogue. He also has responsibility to ensure that visitors have a home to go to for Shabbat, as hospitality is important to Jewish people. The synagogue is also used for wedding and funerals.

### Choose an activity:

- Design a cover for a Jewish scroll.
- Design a ‘kippah’ to be worn at the synagogue.
- Design a stained-glass window for a synagogue – remember they do not show faces.
- Draw the inside or create your own synagogue. Use the clip to help you to label the things you can see.

