

Making a pilgrimage

Take a journey to a special space in your school grounds

Great for...

- **RE** personal development and wellbeing
- **PSHE/Citizenship** appreciating the range of religious identities in the United Kingdom

Activity

- 1 Create a place in your grounds that is the focus of your journey. You may already have a quiet space or place of reflection but if not this is something you could develop as part of your RE studies. It is likely to be somewhere quiet and may have a focal point such as a sculpture or water.
- 2 The children can decide on their own route to the focus of their pilgrimage. The route could include stopping off points at places that are special to them, or following an existing trail around the grounds.
- 3 When the routes have been created the children should take time to walk their pilgrimage, and explain to others why they chose this particular route.

What you need

- **Information about pilgrimages** for different faiths
- **Candles, flowers, water** or items you may like to gather that could be put in the final location

Preparation

- People of many different faiths make a pilgrimage. This is a journey to a place of significance to that faith – a shrine, for example, or other place of worship. The children should research pilgrimages for different faiths to understand why people go on them and what they might do on the way, as well as when they get there.
- Discuss whether children in the class, or members of their family, have been on a pilgrimage themselves. You may wish to invite someone in to tell the class what it was like and why it was important to them.

Less challenging

- The children could look at one faith and one destination for a pilgrimage to get an understanding of what pilgrimage is about.

More challenging

- The children can research whether there are any local places of pilgrimage and find out who visits them, why and when. They could plan and undertake a pilgrimage to a local place of worship as part of this activity.
- Hold a 'silent' walk – the children walk silently around the grounds then sit down just far enough apart to ensure that everyone is safely in view of others. Give them enough time to settle. You can build up to long periods of silence as the children get used to being quiet.

Your notes

Use this space to evaluate the activity



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