Key Question: U2.3 What do religions say to us when life gets hard?

This investigation enables pupils to learn in depth from different religious and spiritual ways of life about teaching about hard times, focussing on exploring death. We have exemplified the unit in this way as we are aware that this is a difficult but essential topic for teachers to explore with children. By the age of 10 many children will have experienced grief and death. This unit allows them to talk about these ideas when emotions are less raw than after a bereavement. The activities enable pupils to share their ideas but do not force children to do so. The use of story acts as a distancing device within the unit.

Ensure that you have considered any pupils who have experienced a difficult or traumatic family event, or have experienced loss within their family. As well as the preparation letter, contact particular families and seek their advice if in any doubt.

This unit is designed as an enquiry based unit which may be taught over a series of weeks or in a shorter, more concentrated period such as during an RE week. It is impossible to write a pure child led enquiry this way and so the unit assumes some questions your pupils might choose to investigate and suggests ways to investigate them. What you do in this unit will depend on the questions generated by the children in your class.

The investigation implements the **principal aim of RE**, which is to engage pupils in systematic enquiry into significant human questions which religion and worldviews address, so that they can develop the understanding and skills needed to appreciate and appraise varied responses to these questions, as well as develop responses of their own.

Step 1:	U2.3 What do religions say to us when life	gets hard?	
Select a key	Year group: Recommended Year 6		
question	Strand: Believing		
	Questions in this thread: 3.4 Is death the end? Does it matter? 3.5 Why is there suffering? Are there any solutions?		
	Religions and worldviews: Christians, Hindus and nonreligious responses (e.g Humanists). This unit also includes learning on Muslims. Other examples can be selected by the school.		
	Make sure that you can explain where this unit/question fits into key stage planning e.g. how it builds on previous learning in RE; what other subject areas it links to, if appropriate.		
Step 2: Select learning	 Use the learning outcomes from column 2 of the key question outlines on p.62. Select learning outcomes appropriate for the age and ability of your pupils. Being clear about these outcomes will help you to decide what and how to teach. 		
outcomes			
EmergingExpectedExceeding• Raise thoughtful questions and suggest some answers about life, death, suffering, and what matters most in life (B1).• Express ideas about how and why religion can help believers when times are hard, giving examples (B2).• Explain what difference belief in judgement/heaven/karma/ reincarnation might make to how someone lives, giving examples (B1).• Give simple definitions of some key terms to do with life after death, e.g.salvation, heaven, reincarnation (A3).• Explain some reasons why Christians and Humanists have different ideas about an afterlife (B3).• Explain some reasons why Christians and Humanists have different ideas about an afterlife (B3).		plain what difference belief judgement/heaven/karma/ incarnation might make to w someone lives, giving amples (B1). terpret a range of artistic pressions of afterlife, offering d explaining different ways	

Step 3: Select	 Look at the suggested content for your key question, from column 3 in the unit autlines
specific	outlines.
content	Select the best content (from here, or additional information from elsewhere) to
content	help you to teach in an engaging way so that pupils achieve the learning
	outcomes.
	This plan has selected the following content to exemplify the learning outcomes.
	Pupils will:
	 Use stimulus material to encourage pupils to ask questions about life, death, suffering, and what matters most in life.
	 Analyse and evaluate pupils' questions, to recognise and reflect on how some 'big questions' do not have easy answers, and how people offer different
	answers to some of the big questions about life, death, suffering etc.
	• Explore ways in which religions help people to live, even when times are
	tough, e.g. through prayer, giving a sense of purpose, a guide to deciding
	what is right and wrong, membership of a community who care for each
	other, opportunities to celebrate together. Ask some religious believers to
	explain how their faith has helped them in difficult times, and how it
	encourages them to enjoy life too.
	 Introduce the idea that most religious traditions teach about some form of
	life after death, which can bring comfort to people as they face suffering, or if
	they are bereaved. Teach pupils that some people believe that death is the
	end of life, and that there is no afterlife.
	• Learn some key concepts about life after death in Christianity (such as
	judgement, heaven, salvation through Jesus); and Hinduism (karma, soul,
	samsara, reincarnation and moksha); also one non-religious view about what
	happens after death, e.g. Humanism.
	Consider similarities and differences in ceremonies that mark the end of life
	on Earth and how these express different beliefs.
	 Read and respond to prayers, liturgies, meditation texts and songs/hymns
	used when someone has died, and think about the questions and beliefs they
	address.
	• Reflect on and express clearly their own ideas, concerns and possibly worries
	about death and the idea of life beyond.
	about death and the idea of life beyond.

NOTE: This unit of work offers around 8 hours of classroom ideas. You need to select from it in order to achieve the learning outcomes set out in Step 2 above.

Step 4: Assessment: write specific pupil outcomes Emerging Pupils will be able to say yes to statements like these: I can	 Turn the learning outcomes into pupil-fristatements. Make the learning outcomes specific to the to help you know just what it is that you understand and do as a result of their lease. These 'I can'/'You can' statements will he assessment for learning within your teact to do a separate end of unit assessment. Expected Pupils will be able to say yes to statements like these: I can You can 	the content you are teaching, want pupils to be able to arning. elp you to integrate hing, so that there is no need
 You can Can you? Give a simple definition of the idea of the soul Give a simple definition of the ideas of heaven Give a simple definition of the ideas Karma and reincarnation Consider questions such as What happens when we die? Ask some questions of my own about life after death and suggest two different answers to the questions 	 Can you? Give reasons why some people might be comforted by their beliefs when someone dies Describe the impact that the belief that we have a soul might have on the way someone might live their life Describe the Hindu belief in reincarnation and Karma Describe a link between a reading that might be used at a funeral and a Christian belief about life after death Describe what might happen in a Christian funeral explaining how it shows some Christian beliefs about life after death Explain some similarities and differences between the Muslim belief in Judgement and how that is similar and different to the Hindu belief in reincarnation Describe similarities and differences between non-religious and Christian beliefs about the afterlife Look for similarities and differences between their own views about life after death and the beliefs of Hindus, Christians, Muslims or non-religious people 	 Explain how believing in reincarnation might affect the way someone lives their life Describe the impact for a Christian and or a Muslim, of a belief in Judgement, in a series of areas of their life. Give reasons why non- religious people and Christians might choose to live their life in similar or different ways because of their beliefs Describe and explain their own ideas about life after death reflecting on ideas from at least two religions studied. Interpret artistic and poetic expressions of what happens when we die
Step 5: Develop teaching and learning activities	 Develop active learning opportunities and investigation of the stills of the stills you want pupils to achieve you want them to understand. Make sure that the activities allow pupils to pupils to pupils to pupils. 	the outcomes. elop, as well as the content

LEARNING OBJECTIVES	Teaching and learning ideas and activities	LEARNING OUTCOMES
What questions	have you got about what happens when we die?	
Pupils will learn:	Ask Questions: Set up an enquiry Generating big questions Ask the pupils to cast their mind back to when they were younger and asked all sorts of questions that	These activities will help pupils to work towards achieving the following
Consider questions such as What	are difficult to answer e.g. Where does the sea end? Can they remember some they used to ask? Explain that these questions are answerable but sometimes the explanations are very complicated	expected outcomes:
happens when we die?	Talk to the pupils about life's big questions or 'Ultimate Questions'. You may want to think about questions such as 'Is there a God?' or 'How did the world come to be?' Use this discussion to introduce the unit questions.	 Emerging: Raise thoughtful questions and suggest some answers about
Ask some questions of my own about life after death and suggest two different answers to the questions	 Sharing a story to generate questions Read a story such as 'Heaven' by Nicholas Allan. Use this as a stimulus to generate the kind of questions and answers that can surround death and dying. Draw on the board a stick person with a speech bubble containing a question mark coming out of their mouth. Share with the children that the person is sad because their dog has died. Ask the children to write any questions that this person might have about death. Collect the pupils questions. Analyse the questions and group the questions As a class identify a few key questions that you want to find some answers to in the unit. Remind them that there may be lots of different answers. Express why the questions have been chosen. Ask the pupils to share any answers they might have to the questions chosen. Give pupils space and time to reflect and respond to the question, sharing personal stories, experiences, fears and questions. 	
	Explain to the pupils that they have received a letter from the character in the book, Lil, asking what will happen when she dies? The learning that they do and their own questions that they answer will enable them to write a class response to her question at the end of the unit of work.	
	Notes : Before starting study in this unit a letter informing parents of the topic should be sent home. As this is an enquiry based unit pupils will create their own questions, adapting the key question so they can enquire what most interests and challenges them. Heaven - Nicholas Allan Red Fox books 978-0099488149	

LEARNING OBJECTIVES	Teaching and learning ideas and activities	LEARNING OUTCOMES
What do some p	people think carries on after we have died? What is our soul?	
What do some p Pupils will learn: Describe the impact that the belief that we have a soul might have on the way someone might live their life	 Investigate: Select from and use a variety of skills to work with relevant material, to address the enquiry question The following activities will be selected from depending on the questions the class have chosen to investigate? What do some people think carries on after we have died? What is our soul? Exploring beliefs about the soul Ask pupils to fold a piece of A4 paper in half, landscape. Ask them to then draw a portrait of themselves on one side and write their characteristics and personality traits down the other side. Ensure that pupils suggest characteristics and not physical descriptions. Give pupils the opportunity to represent visually the soul or spirit. Use your own portrait and description to illustrate the concept of spirit or soul by showing that at the point of death, everyone believes the body is finished with. Show this y tearing down the middle and throwing it away. Retain the characteristics/personality and explain that this represents what is known by many people as a person's spirit or soul. Religions try to answer the question what happens to the soul. What do they think it looks like? What happens to it when we die? Where does it come from? Do animals have souls? Does the spirit or soul have anything to do with God? Give pupils space, time and resources to capture their ideas about the spirit or soul in words, pictures or other appropriate form. If part of a person lives on does that affect how you live your life now? 	 These activities will help pupils to work towards achieving the following expected outcomes: Emerging: Raise thoughtful questions and suggest some answers about life, death, suffering, and what matters most in life (B1). Give simple definitions of some key terms to do with life after death, e.g. salvation, heaven, reincarnation (A3). Expected: Express ideas about how and why religion can help believers when times are hard, giving examples (B2). Outline Christian, Hindu and/or nonreligious beliefs about life after death (A1). Exceeding: Explain what difference belief in judgement/heaven/karma/ Reincarnation might make to how someone lives, giving examples (B1). Interpret a range of artistic
	can be quite a dramatic moment when the 'body' side is separated from the 'spirit'. Only use your portrait, never one of the pupils'.	expressions of afterlife, offering and explaining different ways of understanding (B3).

Ie believe that you come back to life as a different thing? What is reincarnation? Investigate: Do some people believe that you come back to life as a different thing? What is eincarnation? haring ideas of reincarnation and karma Use the image of a ladder. Ask pupils to imagine this ladder represents life, with the best people at the top and the lowest animals at the bottom. Ask pupils to discuss this and then draw their own. Who might be at the top and who at the bottom? Where would they place themselves? Use this	These activities will help pupils to work towards achieving the following expected outcomes:
eincarnation? haring ideas of reincarnation and karma Use the image of a ladder. Ask pupils to imagine this ladder represents life, with the best people at the top and the lowest animals at the bottom. Ask pupils to discuss this and then draw their own.	to work towards achieving the
the top and the lowest animals at the bottom. Ask pupils to discuss this and then draw their own.	
image to introduce and explain the belief of reincarnation. Ensure pupils understand the purpose for believers is to get to the top of, then off, the ladder completely, to become one with God. Move on to use the image to introduce and explain the concept of 'Karma' and Moksha. Once	 Emerging: Raise thoughtful questions and suggest some answers about life, death, suffering, and what matters
 understood, challenge the pupils to consider what qualities can be found in humans at different points of the ladder. What qualities and habits would move people up and down? Ask them to annotate their ladder with these. haring their ideas: Pupils can then respond through writing/drawing. Who, would believers say, ecides who is at the top/bottom and which habit or behaviour is important? Will people behave ifferent? Whu? 	 most in life (B1). Give simple definitions of some key terms to do with life after death, e.g. salvation, heaven, reincarnation (A3).
note to Lil: Ask the pupils to write a note to Lil as if from a Hindu explaining what they think will have appened to dill the dog when he died. Ensure that pupil use the terms reincarnation and Karma in heir note	 Expected: Outline Christian, Hindu and/or nonreligious beliefs about life after death (A1).
lotes: More detail on this lesson can be found in Exploring the journey of life and Death Ed. Joyce Mackley RE Today services. It is easy for pupils to become attracted to the idea of reincarnation without understanding the belief that the cycle of life is there to be broken by living a good life and ne's soul going to Heaven. Ensure pupils make a link between a belief in reincarnation and living a	• Explain some similarities and differences between beliefs about life after death (B2).
ood life Noksha : escape from the cycle of being- life, death and rebirth that happen as a result of Karma. arma: the law of cause and effect, the idea that every action we take will have consequences either ositive or negative Pharma is a person's duty, the right thing to do in any given situation eincarnation: being born into another life	 Exceeding: Explain what difference belief in judgement/heaven/karma/ reincarnation might make to how someone lives, giving examples (B1).
iff ap he lot /itl ne oo /lo car os	erently in life if they believe in reincarnation? Why? ote to Lil: Ask the pupils to write a note to Lil as if from a Hindu explaining what they think will have spened to dill the dog when he died. Ensure that pupil use the terms reincarnation and Karma in ir note ses: More detail on this lesson can be found in Exploring the journey of life and Death Ed. Joyce ckley RE Today services. It is easy for pupils to become attracted to the idea of reincarnation hout understanding the belief that the cycle of life is there to be broken by living a good life and if soul going to Heaven. Ensure pupils make a link between a belief in reincarnation and living a od life ksha: escape from the cycle of being- life, death and rebirth that happen as a result of Karma. ma: the law of cause and effect, the idea that every action we take will have consequences either itive or negative

LEARNING OBJECTIVES	Teaching and learning ideas and activities	LEARNING OUTCOMES			
Do you get to he	Do you get to heaven if you do things wrong?				
Pupils will learn:	Investigate: Do you get to heaven if you do things wrong?	These activities will help pupils to work towards achieving the			
Look for similarities and differences between the Muslim belief in Judgement and Christian belief in Judgement and how that is similar and different to the Hindu belief in reincarnation Describe the impact for a Christian and or a Muslim, of a belief in Judgement, in a series of areas of their life.	 Judgement: Use the image of a set of weighing scales to introduce and explain the concept of 'judgement', with good deeds weighed on one side and 'bad' deeds on the other. Discuss with pupils what the word 'judgement' means. Scoring your life Once understood, challenge pupils to consider what 'pass mark' they would set for entry into a happy afterlife. What qualities and habits would be found in people who 'passed'? Ask pupils to imagine that they are in charge for the day of who gets into Heaven. Pupils need to be able justify why they have set the pass mark where they have. They can then complete the sentence 'If the roof fell in now, I would score _ out of ten'. Ask pupils to discuss who or what type of people they think score highly and who would receive a low score. What do you think your score is now and what do you do to increase or decrease your score? After this discussion ask pupils to annotate a set of scales with their ideas about these questions in writing or drawing. Use this image to introduce and explain the belief of one life and judgement. Share with pupils that Christians and Muslims believe this. God judges us according to the decisions we have made within our life. Each of the religions believes something different about how God will judge us. Christians believe if you repent- say sorry you will be forgiven for the things you do that are wrong. Many Christians believe that if you believe in God and his son Jesus Christ you have a place in heaven however this does not mean that you can behave badly! All these religions teach that if we have made positive decisions something positive will happen - we will go to Paradise or Heaven. Each of these religions also teaches that if we have made bad decisions then we will suffer consequences. Muslims believe that all through life you have two angels on your shoulders who write down all the good and bad deeds that you commit during your life. After death your deeds are weighed. If you have committed more good deeds	 following expected outcomes: Emerging: Give simple definitions of some key terms to do with life after death, e.g. salvation, heaven, reincarnation (A3). Expected: Outline Christian, Hindu and/or nonreligious beliefs about life after death (A1). Explain some similarities and differences between beliefs about life after death (B2). Explain some reasons why Christians and Humanists have different ideas about an afterlife (B3). Exceeding: Explain what difference belief in judgement/heaven/karma/reincarnation might make to how someone lives, giving examples (B1). 			

 How might one get a higher or lower score? What happens to those who do not make it? Explain that this is another ultimate question that many believers have to consider. Ask pupils to respond through writing/drawing thoughts or completing sentence starters. Judgement means Different religions say The similarities and differences between these ideas are If I made the rules as to who can go into heaven, I would make sure because My score is because Looking at this today has made me think 	
 Divide pupils into groups to find out about beliefs about judgement and reaching heaven or paradise in Christianity or Islam. Envoy information to other groups. Ticket to paradise Ask the pupils to make a ticket for a Christian and a Muslim for heaven or paradise. On the ticket they must show 'terms and conditions' for reaching heaven or paradise. What is the difference between the two tickets? What would be on the ticket for a Hindu?	
Notes: More detail on this lesson can be found in Exploring the journey of life and Death Ed. Joyce Mackley RE Today Services The concept of 'judgement' demands acknowledging that some lives would be judged as unsatisfactory. All religions that believe in judgement accept that only God can judge a life's work and that there is guidance as to how to live. Different Christians have different beliefs about what happens when we die. Many will say that as long as we believe in Jesus as the Son of God we will go to heaven and come face to face with God. People who believe this try to follow Jesus' teachings. Others believe that we will be judged on the way we have lived our lives. Some Christians believe there will be a time of judgement before people go to Heaven.	

LEARNING OBJECTIVES	Teaching and learning ideas and activities	LEARNING OUTCOMES
What do Christi	ans think happens when we die?	
Pupils will learn:	Investigate: What do Christians think happens when we die? How do they mark a death?	These activities will help pupils to work towards achieving the
Think of reasons why some people might be comforted by their beliefs when someone dies Describe a link between a reading that might be used at a funeral and a Christian belief about life after death Describe what might happen in a Christian funeral explaining how it shows some Christian beliefs	 Ask the children to work in groups to collect what they already know from the lesson on Judgement about what Christians believe. Read the poem 'Heaven' by Steve Turner. This poem is written in a contemporary style and from a Christian perspective. In groups answer a selection of questions from the poem for example: The poet is a Christian. How can you tell? Which verse in the poem do you think is most important for Christians? Why? What puzzling questions does the poem make you think about? What answer do you think a Christian would give to the questions in the last two lines? Ceremonies when people have died? Look together at an order of service for a Christian funeral, looking at what it says about a believer's hope in death. What bible passages do people read? What payers do they say? What do they say about beliefs about death? How might what happens at a funeral help a Christian when someone has died? Why do you think it might help? Use the idea of the eulogy to promote discussion about memories and sadness of bereaved friends and family. Explain it is an honest story of the person's life. If it is appropriate choose someone well known who has died eg a children's author or sports person and ask groups to write a Eulogy. Will what they write only be about what they were famous for? 	
about life after death	Notes : Heaven by Steve Turner can be found in Steve Turner poems selected by Rebecca Winter (Lion Publishing, ISBN 0 7 59 4802 2) It can also be found on Poemhunter www.poemhunter.com Information on Christian death beliefs www.request.org.uk	 Exceeding: Explain what difference belief in judgement/heaven/karma/ reincarnation might make to how someone lives, giving examples (B1).

LEARNING OBJECTIVES	Teaching and learning ideas and activities	LEARNING OUTCOMES
What do people	who don't believe in God think happens when we die?	
Pupils will learn:	Investigate:What do people who don't believe in God think happens when we die?	These activities will help pupils to work towards achieving the following
Describe how not	Different ideas of death	expected outcomes:
believing in life	• Draw a time line for a person, ending at the point of death. Fork this line in 3 ways to	Emerging:
after death might	demonstrate the different answers to 'What happens when we die?' - judgement, re-	Raise thoughtful questions and
make a difference	incarnation and then the response, 'nothing'.	suggest some answers about life,
to how someone lives	• Extend understanding of this by making it clear that this response often leads to a desire to live life to the full. Can pupils think why?	death, suffering, and what matters most in life (B1).
	• How is the belief that nothing happens different to the other two beliefs studied?	• Give simple definitions of some key terms to do with life after
Look for similarities	How do we live life to the full?	death, e.g. salvation, heaven,
and differences	• Reflect and ask pupils to respond to what 'live life to the full' might mean. You could	reincarnation (A3).
between non-	introduce the idea of the books such as '100 things to do before you die' and '100 places	
religious and Christian beliefs	to see before you die'.	Expected:
about the afterlife	• Explain that at a funeral of a non-believer, the life is celebrated for what was achieved and what was given to others. The focus is on the life lived, not on a life to come. Share some readings that could be chosen for a non-religious funeral service.	 Outline Christian, Hindu and/or nonreligious beliefs about life after death (A1).
Think of reasons why non-religious people and	 Give pupils opportunity to consider and write mission statements that set out hopes and dreams for their own lives. 	• Explain some similarities and differences between beliefs about life after death (B2).
Christians might	Notes: Pupils might be tempted to think 'living life to the full' means living pleasure filled,	• Explain some reasons why
choose to live their	selfish lives. Humanists believe a full life is one that contributes to the lives of others as well,	Christians and Humanists have
life in similar or	so relationships and caring for others are seen as part of being 'fully human'.	different ideas about an afterlife
different ways because of their	The British Humanist association provides information about funerals on its website www.humanism.org.uk	(B3).
beliefs	It also publishes Funerals without God by J Wynne Willson	Exceeding:
	http://humanismforschools.org.uk/teaching-toolkits/ has several teaching toolkits to support this work	• Explain what difference belief in judgement/heaven/karma/
		reincarnation might make to how someone lives, giving examples (B1).

LEARNING OBJECTIVES	Teaching and learning ideas and activities	LEARNING OUTCOMES
What different i	deas are there about what happens when we die? What do I think?	
Pupils will learn: Look for similarities and differences between their own views about life after death and the beliefs of Hindus, Christians, Muslims or non-religious people	 Evaluate and Express: Weigh up arguments and assess conclusions and articulate findings and their implications Impersonal evaluation Give the pupils a series of statements about what Christians, Muslims, Hindus and those who hold non-religious beliefs believe about death. When you first give the quotes to the children don't tell them who holds this belief. Ask the children to sort the cards into three piles depending on the belief that they think they represent. Explain to the pupils who hold the views. Is this surprising or did their learning help them to get these answers right? Give each pair of children a Venn diagram and ask them to use just two sets of cards. Label one circle, for example, Christian only and the other Hindu only. Where the two overlap place shared beliefs. Ask the children to sort the cards. 	 These activities will help pupils to work towards achieving the following expected outcomes: Emerging: Raise thoughtful questions and suggest some answers about life, death, suffering, and what matters most in life (B1). Give simple definitions of some key terms to do with life after death, e.g. salvation, heaven, reincarnation (A3).
Describe their own ideas about life after death reflecting on ideas from at least two religions studied.	 Meet up with another pair to share ideas, justify conclusions and make any amendments Explain to the children that they now need to write back to Lil and explain the different answers to the questions. Ensure that in their response they will need to explain how holding certain beliefs makes people behave in their lives. You will need to differentiate this activity with sentence starters and writing frames. Personal evaluation Read the poem Heaven by Peter Blowfield (aged 10) available free from the NATRE website. Read and discuss the poem in small groups. Set the pupils some questions to consider for example What is the poet certain/uncertain about? What do you think the poet has so many questions but no answers? What do you think this poet might believe about what happens when we die? Ask the children to go back to the questions they answered at the beginning of the unit. Have their views changed? 	 Expected: Express ideas about how and why religion can help believers when times are hard, giving examples (B2). Outline Christian, Hindu and/or nonreligious beliefs about life after death (A1). Explain some similarities and differences between beliefs about life after death (B2). Explain some reasons why Christians and Humanists have different ideas about an afterlife (B3).

Personal expression Set the pupils the task of writing their own poem about life and death, perhaps with a repeating phrase such as Heaven, Heaven what does it mean? Can they express their own ideas in their poem? When the poem is written ask the children to write an explanation of how it shows their own beliefs about death, comparing their ideas to two other ideas they have studied.	 Exceeding: Explain what difference belief in judgement/heaven/karma/ reincarnation might make to how someone lives, giving examples (B1). Interpret a range of artistic
Notes : A ready-made set of cards for this activity can be found on p27/28 of Exploring the journey of life and Death Ed. Joyce Mackley RE Today services Alternatively you could make up your own set of cards by searching on question 3 on the Children Talking website http://old.natre.org.uk/db/profile2a.php Heaven by Peter Blowfield can be downloaded free by going to www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/spirited-poetry/2006/?ThemeID=54	expressions of afterlife, offering and explaining different ways of understanding (B3).