

TOPIC	KEY VOCABULARY	POSSIBLE TRIP/EXPERIENCE
CHRISTIANITY SALVATION HOW DO EASTER SYMBOLS HELP US TO UNDERSTAND EASTER?	TIER 2 (Academic): Symbol, meaning, remember, hope, new life, sadness, joy, important, reflect, celebrate, represent. TIER 3 (Subject specific RE words): Salvation, Easter, cross, crucifixion, resurrection, Paschal candle, liturgical colours, hot cross bun, Easter garden.	Visit our Church to go on a "Symbol Hunt" (finding the cross, Paschal candle, and noticing liturgical colours). Create an Easter Garden outdoors as a class, using natural materials to represent the tomb and resurrection.
PRIOR LEARNING	EYFS – Who am I and where do I belong? Y1 - Why is Easter important for Christians?	

	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4
ENQUIRY QUESTION	What is a symbol?	Why is the cross an important symbol for Christians?	What other symbols are connected to Easter? (Focus: Eggs, Hot Cross Buns, Easter Garden)	How do these symbols help Christians remember the Easter story? (Focus: Church symbols)
LENS	Thinking	Believing	Living & Believing	Thinking & Living
RELIGIOUS CONCEPT	Salvation	Salvation	Salvation	Salvation
LEARNING OBJECTIVES	To understand what a symbol is and explore how everyday symbols communicate meaning without words.	To explore the Easter story and understand why the cross is the most important symbol of Salvation for Christians.	To identify everyday Easter symbols (eggs, hot cross buns) and explain how they connect to new life and Jesus' sacrifice.	To understand how church symbols (Paschal candle, colours) help Christians remember and celebrate the Easter story.
ACTIVITY	Look at everyday symbols (e.g., stop sign, smiley face, recycling logo). Discuss what they mean. Play a matching game connecting symbols to their meanings. Introduce the concept that religions use symbols to tell big stories.	Recap the Easter story (Crucifixion and Resurrection). Discuss why a cross, which started as a symbol of sadness, became a symbol of hope. Create a "transforming cross" craft (dark colours on one side, bright colours on the other).	Taste hot cross buns and examine the cross on top and the spices (representing embalming spices). Look at hollow Easter eggs representing the empty tomb/new life. Children design an Easter egg and write inside what it symbolises for Christians.	Explore the Paschal candle (light overcoming darkness) and liturgical colours (purple for Lent/sadness, white/gold for Easter/joy). Children sequence the Easter story using coloured paper links to represent the changing mood and symbols.

ASSESSMENT	Can the CHILDREN explain what a symbol is and give an example of an everyday symbol?	Can the CHILDREN explain why the cross is a symbol of both sadness and hope for Christians, linking it to Salvation?	Can the CHILDREN identify Easter eggs and hot cross buns as religious symbols and explain their meaning?	Can the CHILDREN talk about how symbols like the Paschal candle help Christians remember the Easter story, giving reasons for their views?
EXPECTED OUTCOMES	Recognise that 'Salvation' is a core concept. Give examples of how the Easter story is remembered and what it means to Christians. Talk about what they have learnt, giving reasons for views they have.			
HIGHER ORDER QUESTIONS	Do we need symbols to remember important things, or could we just use words?	Why do you think Christians wear crosses as jewellery if it was originally something used for punishment?	If an Easter egg is a symbol of new life, what other things in nature could be a symbol of Easter?	How does seeing the colour purple or white in a church change how a Christian might feel during worship?
FURTHER QUESTIONS and/or BIG QUESTIONS FOR DISPLAY	symbols help us understand the Easter story? Why is Easter important for Christians? (Y1) How does Holy Communion build a Christian community?			
INCLUSION & ADAPTATION	Provide tangible, 3D everyday symbols (e.g., a real Stop sign, a physical smiley face toy) rather than just 2D pictures.	Pre-cut cross templates. Use a simple, illustrated storyboard of the Easter story to support understanding before discussing the symbol.	Provide sensory exploration: smelling the spices in the hot cross bun and holding a physical hollow egg.	Provide a sensory box with purple and white fabrics and a battery-operated candle for concrete exploration.
GREATER DEPTH	Write a short explanation of how a symbol can sometimes be more powerful than a written sentence.	Compare the empty cross used by Protestants with the crucifix used by Catholics, discussing what different parts of the story they emphasise.	Design a completely new symbol that could represent 'new life' or 'hope' and justify the design choices.	Write a short reflection on which Easter symbol they think is the most helpful for Christians to remember the concept of 'Salvation' and why.