

Lincolnshire Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education
KS2 Additional Unit: Forgiveness

- *Explore the concept of forgiveness in different religious and non-religious worldviews*
- *The value of forgiveness, the implications of forgiveness for the one being forgiven and the one forgiving*

- Key terms: forgiveness, mercy/merciful, compassion, sin, forgiveness, repentance, reconciliation
- “To err is human, to forgive divine” (Alexander Pope) – ways in which different religions reflect this view
- **Christianity:** the Lord’s Prayer, biblical texts about forgiveness, e.g. the Parable of the Lost Son (**Luke 15:11-31**), forgiving seventy times seven (**Matthew 18:21-22**); beliefs about God as forgiving and merciful; links between the story of the Fall (Adam and Eve) and the story of Jesus’ **crucifixion** and **salvation** – the links between these narratives and beliefs about sin and forgiveness; examples of this in action, e.g. Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- **Hinduism:** the relationship between forgiveness and fulfilling one’s duty (**dharmā**); forgiveness as one way of carrying out good action (**karmā**); **ahimsa** (the principle of non-violence) – the links between this and forgiveness, e.g. the actions of Mahatma Gandhi when people harmed him; **karuna** (compassion) and the way in which this links with forgiveness; seeking penance (**prayascittā**)
- **Islam:** Allah as All-Merciful (**Qur’an Surat An-Nur 24:22**), the All-Forgiving, the Pardoner; Hadith describing Prophet Muhammad asking God to forgive the people of Taif who had mistreated him (**Al-Bukhari**); **shirk** – the unforgivable sin (worship of any other deity); distinction between divine forgiveness and human forgiveness; expectation that people will forgive (e.g. **Qur’an 64.14**)
- **Judaism:** forgiveness as a duty (**mitzvah**) e.g. **Leviticus 19:17**, **Micah 7:18**; links between this and beliefs about God as merciful; the concept of **teshuva** (repentance); **Yom Kippur**, the Day of Atonement
- The value of forgiveness in both religious and non-religious worldviews as a way of healing human relationships; reasons why healthy human relationships are important to individuals, communities, nations and the world
- The challenges of forgiveness for the one forgiving (e.g. having to let go of a hurt that has been caused) and the one being forgiven (e.g. being courageous enough to admit harm has been caused, having the humility to seek forgiveness, etc.)