

# What are Vertical Concepts?



Vertical concepts build a thematic narrative and provide context across diverse worldviews, as well as using small steps to help pupils gain a deep understanding of complex, abstract ideas:



## Sacrifice

- **Giving something up for the benefit of someone else** is a recurring concept across religious & non-religious worldviews.
- Sacrifices can be for the benefit of people close to us or people we have never met.
- Sacrifices can be everyday commitments of time, money, material objects or service to others.
- Some worldviews see sacrifices as a way of pleasing God and may involve the motivation of future reward.
- Some people see sacrifices for the sake of others as altruistic acts, with no personal reward.
- Sacrifices can be on a higher level and involve risking or giving up a life for the sake of others.
- In Christianity, the **Ultimate Sacrifice** of Jesus, giving up his life for the people he loved, is a principal belief.



## Knowledge & Meaning

- Beliefs impact how people make sense of the world: humanity's ideas of right & wrong; truth, meaning & purpose.
- Beliefs impact human behaviour in diverse ways including how people and organisations exercise power.
- Some people seek to question how reasonable it is to believe certain aspects of religious and non-religious teachings.



## Human Context

- Human beings exist in, and are influenced by, their place in time and their geographical, political and social context (Person, Time & Place).
- Everyone is different; our diversities are influenced by our personal context which influences our personal worldview.



# Progression in vertical concepts



	Sacrifice	Knowledge & Meaning	Human context
EYFS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are lots of people who help us.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People have senses.</li> <li>• People must decide what is right and wrong.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People have differences and similarities expressed through clothes, food, celebrations and special objects.</li> <li>• People can be different but still belong.</li> </ul>
Y1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christians believe Jesus was a special baby, the incarnation of God, a saviour.</li> <li>• In Genesis humanity was divided from God by Adam &amp; Eve's disobedience.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stories from sacred texts teach people how to behave.</li> <li>• Stories help some people understand the world.</li> <li>• Some people ask big questions and try to answer them using reason.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People show they belong through special objects, buildings, worship, celebrations and rites of passage.</li> <li>• People show their beliefs on their own and in groups.</li> <li>• <b>Person, Time &amp; Place:</b> Jesus (Jewish), about 2000 years ago, Judea (Israel)</li> </ul>
Y2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christians believe Jesus sacrificed his life to save the people he loved.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stories from sacred texts teach people about right and wrong</li> <li>• Concepts such as freedom are hard to define but have huge human significance.</li> <li>• People use their senses to try to understand the world</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People express their beliefs through special objects, buildings, worship, celebrations and rites of passage</li> <li>• Different groups express their beliefs in different ways</li> <li>• <b>Person, Time &amp; Place:</b> Moses (Hebrew), about 3400 years ago, Egypt</li> </ul>
Y3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christians believe Jesus was a person of the Trinity, God in human form, sent to guide and save God's people.</li> <li>• In Islam, submission to the will of Allah can involve commitments of time, money and effort.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teachings from sacred texts help some people make moral decisions</li> <li>• Ideas of 'morality' and responsibility are complex</li> <li>• Ideas about what is true can be critically examined using logic and reasoned argument.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual expression of belief can impact everyday life, this can show diversity within as well as between worldviews.</li> <li>• Some people express religious symbolism through creative arts, others don't.</li> <li>• <b>Person, Time &amp; Place:</b> Muhammad (Muslim), about 1400 years ago, Mecca (Saudi Arabia)</li> </ul>
Y4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historically, the Abrahamic faiths required sacrifice of animals to honour God. Abraham was honoured by God for his willingness to sacrifice his son on Gods command.</li> <li>• Christians believe Jesus was the Ultimate Sacrifice, bringing people back to God's presence.</li> <li>• In Islam and Christianity, personal self-sacrifice in the form of action and charity is important.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People can interpret Truth in different ways (Plato's cave), humans are limited by experience.</li> <li>• Teachings from sacred texts can inspire people's actions, e.g. sacrifice, charity and service.</li> <li>• Most human beings have a sense of moral justice.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expression of belief can be seen locally, nationally and internationally (local focus – places of worship or contribution to local community).</li> <li>• Events in history and human conflict have impacted (Islamic) diversity.</li> <li>• <b>Person, Time &amp; Place:</b> Dr Hany El-Banna (Muslim), 1980s, Birmingham</li> <li>• <b>Person, Time &amp; Place:</b> Edith Cavell (Christian), 1865-1915AD, England &amp; Belgium</li> </ul>
Y5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Hindu Dharma, fulfilling your duty may involve personal sacrifice.</li> <li>• Christians believe Jesus fulfilled the prophesies of the Old Testament of the coming of a Messiah, a saviour.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many human beings see they have responsibilities to others and the world.</li> <li>• Buddhist Dharma seeks to end suffering through reaching enlightenment.</li> <li>• Evidence for God's existence is contested but still sought.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Events in history in different places have impacted (Christian) diversity.</li> <li>• Religious worldviews have significant impact on arts and culture.</li> <li>• <b>Person, Time &amp; Place:</b> Siddhartha Gautama (The Buddha), about 2500 years ago, Northern India</li> <li>• <b>Person, Time &amp; Place:</b> George Frederick Handel (German), 1685-1759AD, UK.</li> </ul>
Y6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Christianity, belief in Jesus' death and resurrection is important as it brings people to salvation.</li> <li>• In many worldviews, personal self-sacrifices or living a good life have beneficial, future consequences.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Different belief systems influence ideas of life's meaning and purpose.</li> <li>• Philosophers cannot prove what happens after we die so seek explanations, some of which consider body and soul as separate.</li> <li>• Ideas of what happens after we die give meaning to human action on earth.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diversity within groups leads to diversity of expression (local, national, Global).</li> <li>• Places and celebrations have significance to individuals and communities (in Hindu Dharma).</li> <li>• <b>Person, Time &amp; Place:</b> Diverse philosophers through time.</li> </ul>