

A SEVEN YEAR CYCLE OF THEMES FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

The position of each theme in any one year will determine the content and emphasis so that no theme will be repeated in the same time of year throughout the primary or secondary schooling of any one pupil

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Year 1	Celebration	Relationships	Communication	Specialness	Community	Values
Year 2	Journey	Celebration	Relationships	Communication	Specialness	Community
Year 3	Values	Journey	Celebration	Relationships	Communication	Specialness
Year 4	Community	Values	Journey	Celebration	Relationships	Communication
Year 5	Specialness	Community	Values	Journey	Celebration	Relationships
Year 6	Communication	Specialness	Community	Values	Journey	Celebration
Year 7	Relationships	Communication	Specialness	Community	Values	Journey

Exemplar of how the seven themes may be used on any three days in the week in Year One of a seven year cycle

Suggestions for weekly content on the majority of days

THEME : Celebration TERM 1

- Week 1 Celebrating a New Beginning
1. Things we have done which gave us joy
 2. Things we can do for others
 3. Caring for those less fortunate than ourselves
- Week 2 Celebrating Special Times
1. Special times in our family
 2. Special times with our friends
 3. Special times in our schools
- Week 3 Celebrating Jewish New Year
1. Jewish family celebrations
 2. The ritual of asking for forgiveness
 3. Being sorry and saying sorry
- Week 4 Celebrating the Good Things in our Lives
1. Being a friend and having a friend
 2. Being happy to be who we are
 3. Counting our blessings
- Week 5 Celebrating the Harvest
1. Bread means life
 2. Water gives life
 3. Taking things for granted
- Week 6 Celebrating the Harvest
1. Saying thank you for all we are given
 2. Saying thank you to God
 3. Sharing what we have with others

THEME : Relationships TERM 2

Week 1 Relationships within our families

1. What we want for ourselves
2. What we give of ourselves
3. What others give to us

Week 2 The School Family

1. Being proud to belong
2. The way we treat others
3. What we can contribute to school life

Week 3 The World Family

1. We have brothers and sisters all over the world
2. Ways to head the divisions
3. What we can do to make a better world

Week 4 Learning to Love

1. Ways we can show love
2. Ways we can be loveable
3. Greater love has no man than to lay down his life

Week 5 Power of Love in the Christmas Story

1. Mary for Elisabeth
2. Joseph for Mary
3. The shepherds for the Baby

Week 6 The Power of Love in our Own Homes

1. Giving is better than receiving
2. Ways we can show love at Christmas
3. Making those who love us feel special

THEME : Communication

TERM 3

Week 1 Changing for the Better - New Year Resolutions

1. Making a new start
2. Saying sorry and saying thank you
3. Learning to listen

Week 2 Choosing our Words Carefully

1. Finding the right words to say
2. The pain caused by thoughtless words
3. The way we feel when others praise us

Week 3 Being a Good Listener

1. What we can learn when we listen
2. Everyone has a story worth listening to
3. How the Samaritans help by listening

Week 4 Difficulties in Communication

1. Dealing with shyness, fears and aggression
2. Ways we communicate through our expression
3. Learning how to smile

Week 5 Overcoming Difficulties in Communication

1. Helen Keller and Anne Sullivan
2. Louie Braille
3. Beethoven

Week 6 Communication Without Words

1. Painting and sculpture
2. Dance and mime
3. Music and rhythm

THEME : Specialness

TERM 4

Week 1 We Are All Special

1. Our names are special
2. We are all special to someone
3. Making someone else feel special

Week 2 Mementoes and Memorabilia

1. Things left to us by others
2. Things which remind us of others
3. Things we give to others to remind them of us

Week 3 Places We Remember

1. Feelings when we recall a place we have visited
2. Places which inspire awe and wonder
3. A place of Christian pilgrimage

Week 4 People We Admire

1. Heroes and role-models
2. The heroism of the Christian Saint
3. The quality of selfless love

Week 5 Times We Remember

1. A special event in our lives
2. Passover - a special time for Jews
3. Holy Week a special time for Christians

Week 6 Special Events in Holy Week

1. Palm Sunday
2. The Last Supper
3. The death of Jesus

THEME : Community

TERM 5

- Week 1 Easter for the Christian Community
1. The empty tomb
 2. The friends of Jesus gathered together
 3. The celebration of new life together
- Week 2 Belonging to the School Community
1. Making the school a happy place to be in
 2. Looking after the school
 3. Looking after other people
- Week 3 Belonging to the Local Community
1. Being a good neighbour
 2. Making the neighbourhood safe for everyone
 3. Ways to improve our neighbourhood
- Week 4 Care in the Community
1. The plight of the homeless
 2. Becoming aware of injustice and cruelty
 3. Ways to help elderly, infirm and lonely people
- Week 5 Belonging to the World Community
1. Taking responsibility for others
 2. Taking responsibility for the environment
 3. Taking responsibility for the future
- Week 6 Making the World a Better Place
1. The work of the United Nations
 2. The work of Third World Charities
 3. Ways to bring peace and harmony between people

THEME : Values

TERM 6

- Week 1 *Ourselves and Our Values*
1. How we see ourselves
 2. How other people see us
 3. Knowing what to change and what to accept
- Week 2 *Things We Believe In*
1. Friendship and loyalty
 2. Honesty and trust
 3. Fairness and equality
- Week 3 *Truth and Lies*
1. People we trust
 2. How it feels to be lied to
 3. Telling the truth even when it hurts
- Week 4 *Right and Wrong*
1. A good conscience
 2. A bad conscience
 3. How it feels when we do wrong
- Week 5 *Rules and Laws*
1. The meaning of the Ten Commandments
 2. The meaning of the Sermon on the Mount
 3. Do to others as you would have them do to you
- Week 6 *Christian Beliefs*
1. The message of Jesus about the Kingdom of God
 2. Loving the unseen God in the brother we see
 3. Every hair on our head is counted

Exemplar of how the seven themes may be used on any three days in the week in Year Two of a seven year cycle

Suggestions for weekly content on the majority of days

THEME : Journey TERM 1

Week 1 FOCUS - Journey Through School

1. Greetings and Welcomes
2. Changes and Expectations
3. Belonging

Week 2 FOCUS - Beginnings

1. Facing Difficulties
2. Being Brave
3. Making the Right Choices

Week 3 FOCUS - Birth/Childhood

1. Celebrating Birth
2. Childhood
3. School days - good and bad

Week 4 FOCUS - Growing Up/Growing Old

1. Growing Up
2. Old Age
3. Grandparents Day

Week 5 FOCUS - Harvest

1. Harvest of the land, e.g. fruit
2. Harvest of the sea
3. Harvest of the field e.g. corn

Week 6 FOCUS - Journey towards winter

1. Hibernation
2. Migration
3. Cycle of the seasons

THEME : Celebration

TERM 2

- Week 1 FOCUS - Celebrating Life
1. Celebrating Saintly Lives
 2. Celebrating the work of a charity
 3. The School's Charity
- Week 2 FOCUS - Armistice Day
1. All the elevens
 2. The service at the Cenotaph
 3. Towards peace
- Week 3 FOCUS - Planning & Celebration
1. Preparing to Celebrate
 2. Family Celebrations
 3. Community Celebrations
- Week 4 FOCUS - Festivals of Light
1. Light & Darkness
 2. Freedom and Human Rights
 3. Gifts
- Week 5 FOCUS - Family Celebrations
1. Giving and Receiving
 2. Meals together
 3. Celebrations in the Christian Church
- Week 6 FOCUS - The Christmas Story
1. A child seen as special
 2. The gift of a child
 3. Gifts for the child

THEME : Relationship

TERM 3

Week 1 FOCUS - A New Beginning
1. New Year Resolutions
2. Changing for the Better
3. Persevering

Week 2 FOCUS - Special People
1. Martin Luther King Day
- January 16th
2. Mahatma Gandhi
3. Mother Theresa

Week 3 FOCUS - Sharing
1. Sharing Possessions
2. Sharing Friends
3. Sharing

Week 4 FOCUS - Family
1. Immediate Family
2. Extended Family
3. World Family

Week 5 FOCUS - Qualities in a Good Relationship
1. Loyalty
2. Trust
3. Responsibilities

Week 6 FOCUS - Feeling Wanted
1. Being Loved
2. Self-esteem/ Confidence
3. Giving Love

THEME : Communication

TERM 4

- Week 1 FOCUS - God
1. Prophets
 2. Sacred Writings
 3. Prayer
- Week 2 FOCUS - With Neighbours
1. Who is my Neighbour?
 2. Helping Others
 3. One World
- Week 3 FOCUS - Good Feelings
1. Unconditional giving
 2. Learning to Receive
 3. Working things through
- Week 4 FOCUS - Bad Feelings
1. It's not Fair!
 2. Feeling Guilty
 3. Feeling Rejected
- Week 5 FOCUS - Responses to Jesus' message
1. A message rejected by some
 2. A message accepted by others
 3. Betrayed and not known (Peter & Judas)
- Week 6 FOCUS - The messenger
1. The messenger is silenced
 2. Claims he has been seen
 3. Jesus the message

THEME : Specialness

TERM 5

Week 1 FOCUS - Me

1. My Feelings Matter
2. Being Similar and Different
3. Outside Appearances - the way others see me

Week 2 FOCUS - Family

1. All families are special
2. Types of families
3. Family Matters

Week 3 FOCUS - School

1. Groupings
2. Roles and Responsibilities
3. School Helpers

Week 4 FOCUS - Local Community

1. Helpers
2. Guests
3. People we help

Week 5 FOCUS - Wider Community

1. Special events e.g. Christian Ascension Day and Jewish Pentecost
2. Special places
3. People we help

Week 6 FOCUS - Special Times

1. School Community
2. Local Community
3. Christian Community e.g. Whitsun

THEME : Community

TERM 6

- Week 1 FOCUS - People who work in the Local Community
1. Voluntary Agencies - e.g. Citizen's Advice, Samaritans
 2. Statutory Agencies - e.g. Social Services
 3. Local Minister
- Week 2 FOCUS - People who work in the Wider Community
1. Ambulance Staff
 2. Police
 3. Firemen and women
- Week 3 FOCUS - Local Community Events
1. Fete
 2. Festival
 3. Youth Groups
- Week 4 FOCUS - Religious Community Events
1. Joining ceremonies, e.g. Baptism
 2. Wedding
 3. Youth Groups
- Week 5 FOCUS - Holiday Events within the Local Community
1. Planning for your holiday
 2. Being Safe
 3. New Communities
- Week 6 FOCUS - School Community
1. Special events
 2. Testing Times
 3. Moving On/ Leaving

Exemplar of how the seven themes may be used on any three days in the week in Year Three of a seven year cycle

Suggestions for weekly content on the majority of days

THEME : Values TERM 1

Week 1 FOCUS - Ourselves
1. Uniqueness of the individual
2. Things we like about ourselves
3. Things we like about our friends

Week 2 FOCUS - Our Homes
1. Being cared for
2. Caring and helping
3. Living with others

Week 3 FOCUS - Our School
1. Shared Values
2. Talents
3. Being ourselves

Week 4 FOCUS - Our Neighbourhood
1. Who is our neighbour?
2. "No man is an island"
3. Neighbourliness

Week 5 FOCUS - The World Community
1. How does our food reach us?
2. Why are people hungry?
3. How can we show our gratitude?

Week 6 FOCUS - Our World
1. Discovering beauty
2. Gratitude for the natural world
3. Gratitude for human endeavour

THEME : Journey

TERM 2

Week 1 FOCUS - Journey towards winter

1. Survival
2. Migration - human
3. Migration in nature

Week 2 FOCUS - Remembrance

1. Past Wars
2. Present Wars
3. Laying down your life

Week 3 FOCUS - Journeys leading to Change

1. Changed people e.g. St. Paul
2. Journey for justice e.g. Jarrow March, Martin Luther King
3. Journey towards reconciliation e.g. Corymeela in N. Ireland

Week 4 FOCUS - Pilgrimages

1. Mecca for Muslims
2. Lourdes for Roman Catholics
3. Golden Temple for Sikhs

Week 5 FOCUS - Advent

1. The meaning of Advent
2. Marking time
3. Waiting

Week 6 FOCUS - Journey to Bethlehem

1. Mary's journey - becoming a mother
2. Joseph's responsibility
3. A joyous arrival

THEME : Celebration

TERM 3

Week 1 FOCUS - Celebrating a New Start

1. New Year Traditions
2. Birth of a Child
3. Epiphany for Christians

Week 2 FOCUS - Celebrating the Achievements of Others

1. Medicine and pioneers in medical research
2. Sporting achievements
3. Founders of religious communities

Week 3 FOCUS - Celebrating our own Achievements

1. - at home
2. - in school
3. - in the community

Week 4 FOCUS - Celebrating our own Worth

1. Ways of showing appreciation
2. Being tolerant of others
3. Caring for others

Week 5 FOCUS - Celebrating Diversity

1. In our school - gender, age, size
2. In our community - e.g. religion, race
3. In our country - e.g. nationality, culture

Week 6 FOCUS - Celebrating Love

1. Signs to show love
2. Brotherly and sisterly love
3. Sacrificial love

THEME : Celebration

TERM 4

- Week 1 FOCUS - Saying Thank You
1. Nirvana Day - Buddhist Celebration of Enlightenment
 2. Personal Gifts e.g. talents, giving and receiving
 3. God's gifts to the world e.g. harvest, health
- Week 2 FOCUS - Making Sacrifices
1. Fasting and abstaining e.g. Yom Kippur for Jews
 2. Ash Wednesday - Lent for Christians
 3. Ramadan for Muslims
- Week 3 FOCUS - Belonging - to a country
1. Caring for the environment
 2. Caring for monuments e.g. cathedrals
 3. Caring for people
- Week 4 FOCUS - Belonging - to a family
1. The family
 2. The school family
 3. Famous families
- Week 5 FOCUS - God as a Father
1. Jesus on the nature of God
 2. Mothering Sunday
 3. God as like a mother?
- Week 6 FOCUS - Easter
1. Last Supper - the meal with friends
 2. Good Friday - Mary at the Cross
 3. Easter Sunday - reunited

THEME : Communication

TERM 5

Week 1 FOCUS - Sight

1. Religious vestments e.g. Jewish prayer shawl
2. Religious artefacts e.g. paten & chalice for Christians, prayer mat for Muslims
3. Signs and symbols e.g. cross, Star of David

Week 2 FOCUS - Smell & Taste

1. The Sabbath meal for Jews with bread & wine
2. Summer Gifts e.g. strawberries & cream
3. Summer Gifts e.g. roses, blossom, mown grass

Week 3 FOCUS - Hearing

1. Views about ways of listening to God
2. Evelyn Glenny (deaf percussionist) and Beethoven
3. Listening to others

Week 4 FOCUS - Touch

1. Water and oil in a Christian baptism
2. Healing
3. Helping and holding hands

Week 5 FOCUS - Speech

1. Pentecost for Christians
2. Preaching of first disciples of Jesus
3. Speaking to others and being unable to speak

Week 6 FOCUS - Prayer

1. Value of prayer in religious traditions
2. Types of prayer
3. Special days of prayer

THEME : Specialness

TERM 6

- Week 1 FOCUS - Nature is special
1. Mountains in religion e.g. Mt. Sinai, the Himalayas
 2. Water in religion e.g. the Ganges for Hindus
 3. Trees e.g. the Bodhi tree for Buddhists
- Week 2 FOCUS - My Body
1. Good Health
 2. Five Senses
 3. A spiritual sense?
- Week 3 FOCUS - Achievements
1. A rite of passage
 2. Overcoming a handicap
 3. Personal goals
- Week 4 FOCUS - Celebrating Freedom
1. The Exodus
 2. Fleeing from persecution
 3. Human rights
- Week 5 FOCUS - Beginnings
1. Creation stories
 2. New nations, e.g. India, Pakistan
 3. New lives
- Week 6 FOCUS - Refreshment
1. Pause for thought
 2. Pause for rest
 3. Enjoyment of life

Exemplar of how the seven themes may be used on any three days in the week in Year Four of a seven year cycle

Suggestions for weekly content on the majority of days

THEME :	Community	TERM 1
Week 1	FOCUS - Joining the School Community	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Welcome new entrants/ staff2. Preparing for a new school/ new term3. School rules
Week 2	FOCUS - Relationships within the School Community	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Parents2. Teachers3. Peers
Week 3	FOCUS - My Friends	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Sharing friends2. Listening to friends3. Things we do together
Week 4	FOCUS - Being a Friend	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Helping at home2. Helping less fortunate people3. Loneliness
Week 5	FOCUS - Helping others at Harvest Time	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Sharing harvest goods2. Loaves and fishes3. World food - how can we share the harvest?
Week 6	FOCUS - My Class	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Working together2. Helping each other3. Setting an example

THEME : Values

TERM 2

- Week 1 FOCUS - Choices at home
1. Responsibility to the family
 2. Responsibility to neighbours
 3. Responsibility to the extended family
- Week 2 FOCUS - A nation's choice
1. Soldiers killed or injured
 2. Holocaust (Shoah)
 3. Brothers and sisters all over the world
- Week 3 FOCUS - Choices in life
1. Why religion?
 2. Another person's religion
 3. Alternatives to religion e.g. nationalism
- Week 4 FOCUS - Behaviour at home
1. Good behaviour
 2. Thoughtless behaviour?
 3. Controlling our behaviour?
- Week 5 FOCUS - Gifts
1. Custom of giving gifts
 2. For Christians - Jesus as a gift from God
 3. Types of gifts
- Week 6 FOCUS - People in the Christmas Story
1. New Parents
 2. Gifts of Value
 3. A very special child for Christmas

THEME : Journey

TERM 3

Week 1 FOCUS - Flight from Danger

1. Mary, Joseph and Jesus
2. Muhammad to Medina
3. Refugees

Week 2 FOCUS - Journeys by Sea

1. Jonah
2. St. Paul
3. Saints e.g. Patrick and Augustine

Week 3 FOCUS - Personal Journeys

1. Holidays
2. Journey through life
3. Preparations for Journeys

Week 4 FOCUS - Preparations - Lent

1. Personal sacrifice
2. Symbolism
3. Journeys into the Wilderness, e.g. Moses, Jesus, Buddha

Week 5 FOCUS - Pilgrimage

1. What is Pilgrimage?
2. Traditional journeys e.g. Jerusalem, Mecca Canterbury
3. We are all pilgrims

Week 6 FOCUS - Making a Journey

1. Special places
2. Obstacles to be overcome
3. People who support us

THEME : Celebrations

TERM 4

Week 1 FOCUS - New Life

1. Infants
2. Seeds/ Spring
3. Colour/ Change

Week 2 FOCUS - Light and Darkness

1. Festivals of light, e.g. Candlemas (Christian), Diwali (Hindu)
2. Sabbath
3. The Enlightened e.g. Jesus, the Buddha

Week 3 FOCUS - Sharing, giving and receiving

1. Religious Festivals
2. Friendship
3. Regard for the environment

Week 4 FOCUS - Traditions of Freedom

1. Tradition of freedom - Passover
2. Tradition of personal freedom e.g. Nirvana
3. A story of freedom

Week 5 FOCUS - Events of Holy Week

1. Entering Jerusalem like a king
2. The Last Supper
3. Fear and arrest

Week 6 FOCUS - Easter

1. Crucifixion - no celebration now
2. Resurrections - celebrations now
3. Traditional Easter celebrations

THEME : Relationships

TERM 5

Week 1 FOCUS - A Relationship with God

1. Christianity
2. Judaism
3. Islam

Week 2 FOCUS - Relationships with others special to us

1. Why some people are special
2. What it means to care
3. Friendship

Week 3 FOCUS - Relationship with ourselves

1. Feeling guilty and saying sorry
2. Feeling pleased with ourselves
3. Success and failure

Week 4 FOCUS - Relationship with the natural world

1. Nature - the environment
2. Religious views about our treatment
3. Stewardship

Week 5 FOCUS - Care for the needy

1. The Good Samaritan updated
2. Caring and Sharing in different faiths e.g. Sikh langar kitchen
3. What can we do?

Week 6 FOCUS - Our attitudes

1. Being grateful
2. Determination
3. Perseverance

THEME : Communication

TERM 6

- Week 1 FOCUS - Uniforms
1. Why have uniforms?
 2. The work of a uniformed organisation e.g. the Salvation Army
 3. School Uniform
- Week 2 FOCUS - Clothes and Fashion
1. Why be fashionable?
 2. Judging by appearances
 3. Saving and spending
- Week 3 FOCUS - Teamwork
1. Sharing ideas with others
 2. Getting things done together
 3. What makes a good team?
- Week 4 FOCUS - Sports
1. Rules and referees
 2. Playing the game
 3. Winning and losing (Sports day)
- Week 5 FOCUS - Writing
1. Diaries e.g. Anne Frank
 2. Favourite poems
 3. Letters
- Week 6 FOCUS - Saying Good-bye
1. Customs
 2. Loss and bereavement
 3. Moving on/changing schools

Exemplar of how the seven themes may be used on any three days in the week in Year Five of a seven year cycle

Suggestions for weekly content on the majority of days

THEME : Specialness

TERM 1

Week 1 FOCUS - A New Start

1. Making new members of the school feel special
2. Apprehensions about the new year
3. Hopes for the new school year

Week 2 FOCUS - Leaders

1. Qualities in a leader
2. Jesus leading the disciples
3. Gandhi (October 2)

Week 3 FOCUS - Places

1. Sacred cities e.g. Mecca
2. Special sites e.g. memorials
3. Special to you and me

Week 4 FOCUS - Objects

1. Religious artefacts
2. A wedding ring
3. Photographs

Week 5 FOCUS - A Special time of the year

1. Autumn
2. Harvest
3. Offering our achievements

Week 6 FOCUS - Days

1. Michaelmas Day - festival of courage
2. Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur
3. A charity e.g. Age Concern, Oxfam

THEME : Community

TERM 2

- Week 1 FOCUS - Religious communities
1. Religious Orders e.g. Franciscans
 2. The church is its members
 3. The Khalsa in Sikhism
- Week 2 FOCUS - In Memoriam
1. Poppy Appeal (Earl Haig)
 2. Memorials of the many killed
 3. Tomorrow - a new beginning?
- Week 3 FOCUS - Creating a School Community
1. Co-operation in class
 2. Teachers and pupils
 3. Making our contribution
- Week 4 FOCUS - Festivals
1. Divali (Hinduism)
 2. Bodhi Day (Buddhism)
 3. All Saints and All Souls Days (Christian)
- Week 5 FOCUS - Christmas in the School Community
1. The meaning of Christmas
 2. Christmas past
 3. Christmas stories and legends e.g. Baboushka
- Week 6 FOCUS - Christmas in Christian Communities
1. Salvation Army - street carols and care
 2. Carol singing e.g. in hospitals
 3. A Midnight Mass

THEME : Values

TERM 3

Week 1 FOCUS - The value of markers in human life

1. Marking a birth
2. Marking a death
3. Marking special times

Week 2 FOCUS - The value of human life itself

1. Saving lives
2. Care for the sick
3. Care for the elderly

Week 3 FOCUS - Being Loved

1. Mothering Sunday
2. Parental love
3. St. Valentine's Day

Week 4 FOCUS - The value of sacrifice

1. Going without
2. Lent for all
3. The point of fasting

Week 5 FOCUS - People to Remember

1. Albert Schweitzer (14 January)
2. Muhammad
3. Ramakrishna

Week 6 FOCUS - Particular Values

1. Keeping promises
2. Seeking the truth
3. Justice

THEME : Journey

TERM 4

Week 1 FOCUS - Winter to Spring

1. Holi (Hindu Festival)
2. Candlemas Day
3. Lantern Festival - Chinese Festival of Lights

Week 2 FOCUS - Pilgrims' Progress

1. Part 1
2. Part 2
3. Part 3

Week 3 FOCUS - Journeying

1. Pilgrimage
2. Journey to Jerusalem - as instructed in the Torah (Jewish)
3. Journey to Mecca - as instructed in the Quran (Muslim)

Week 4 FOCUS - Journey in Christianity

1. Call of disciples
2. Life as a disciple of Jesus
3. Peter changes after the death of Jesus

Week 5 FOCUS - Palm Sunday

1. Welcoming People - religious traditions
2. A journey to Jerusalem
3. Conflict and decisions

Week 6 FOCUS - Easter as a Journey's end

1. A last meal
2. A painful end
3. Death is not the end

THEME : Celebration

TERM 5

Week 1 FOCUS - Happy Times

1. Rights of passage e.g. at birth
2. May Day
3. Anniversaries

Week 2 FOCUS - Sad Times

1. People leaving home
2. Ascension Day - saying good-bye
3. Feeling Lonely

Week 3 FOCUS - Homecomings

1. Parable of Prodigal Son
2. Return to Israel
3. Return of Gandhi

Week 4 FOCUS - Changes in the World We Know

1. Christian Aid
2. Religious views about our responsibility for the environment
3. Our local environment

Week 5 FOCUS - Summer Festivals

1. World Children's Day (16th June)
2. Signs of Summer e.g. Pentecost as an agricultural festival (Jewish)
3. Glastonbury Festival

Week 6 FOCUS - Summer Resolutions

1. Learning anew skill e.g. to swim, ride a bike
2. Perseverance
3. Working Together

THEME : Relationships

TERM 6

Week 1 FOCUS - The School Community

1. Looking Forwards
2. How the school helps in the outside community
3. School is the people in it

Week 2 FOCUS - Being Close to People

1. Fathers - in different religions
2. Mothers - in different religions
3. Tolerance of and understanding of others

Week 3 FOCUS - Doing Things Together

1. Being part of a family
2. Playing in a team e.g. the Boat Race
3. Everyone is important

Week 4 FOCUS - Helping Others

1. Dr. Barnardo
2. Save the Children
3. Salvation Army

Week 5 FOCUS - Changes and Improvements

1. Repentance
2. Importance of our abilities, however limited
3. Celebration of good work

Week 6 FOCUS - Coping with saying Good-bye

1. Remembering those important to us
2. Looking ahead to new horizons
3. Keeping in touch

THEME : Specialness

TERM 2

Week 1 FOCUS - Special Places

1. Jerusalem
2. Mecca
3. Amritsar

Week 2 FOCUS - Remembrance

1. Two minutes silence - a special way of remembering
2. War and anti-war poets
3. Festival of remembrance

Week 3 FOCUS - Special Days

1. Sunday for Christians
2. Shabbat for Jews
3. Friday for Muslims

Week 4 FOCUS - Special People

1. Founders, e.g. Abraham, Jesus, Nanak
2. Prophets/ Teachers e.g. Jeremiah, Hillel
3. Martyrs e.g. Stephen (Christian), Arjan (Sikh)

Week 5 FOCUS - A special time of year

1. Special time
2. Special celebrations
3. Special baby

Week 6 FOCUS - Using our time

1. Symbols at Christmas
2. Seeing people special to us
3. Rest and reflection

THEME : Community

TERM 3

Week 1 FOCUS - Celebrations in different communities

1. Chinese New Year
2. An Orthodox Christmas
3. Purim for Jews

Week 2 FOCUS - School Community

1. Setting Targets
2. Working in groups
3. A learning community

Week 3 FOCUS - Communities in Winter

1. Eskimos
2. Russians
3. Chinese

Week 4 FOCUS - People in the Local Community

1. Local churches
2. Religious leaders
3. Leaders in the local community

Week 5 FOCUS - People in the Wider Community

1. Coming of Lent
2. Keeping Ramadam (Muslim)
3. Keeping Candlemas (Christian)

Week 6 FOCUS - Famous People in Religious Communities

1. Birthday of Muhammad (February)
2. Albert Schweitzer (14 January)
3. Moses Maimonides (Jewish)

THEME : Values

TERM 4

- Week 1 FOCUS - Values in the Home
1. Consideration for people we live with
 2. Caring for pets
 3. Consideration for neighbours
- Week 2 FOCUS - Values in the School
1. What do we value?
 2. Adult contributions e.g. caretakers, school secretary
 3. Contribution from the community e.g. School governors, PTA
- Week 3 FOCUS - Values in the Local Community
1. Care for the less fortunate
 2. Care for the environment
 3. Care for each other e.g. playgroups, meals on wheels
- Week 4 FOCUS - Values in the World Community
1. Peace
 2. Justice
 3. Reconciliation
- Week 5 FOCUS - The value of sacrifice
1. Lives lived for others e.g. Mother Theresa
 2. Lives willing to suffer for others
 3. The value of a single human life
- Week 6 FOCUS - Easter a time of faith and forgiveness
1. Trusting in God even at the end
 2. Forgiveness at the end
 3. Faith restored to the disciples

THEME : Journey

TERM 5

Week 1 FOCUS - Resurrection and Renewed Life

1. Rebuilding a life after tragedy
2. Rebuilding communities after tragedy
3. Disciples - fishermen become fishers of "men"

Week 2 FOCUS - Remarkable journeys

1. Conquering the earth e.g. climbing Everest, reaching the South Pole
2. Conquering outer space
3. Conquering fears and limitations e.g. disability, disadvantage

Week 3 FOCUS - Familiar journeys

1. Preparations of maps and provisions
2. Travelling e.g. safety, signposts
3. Journeys end e.g. rest, reunion, refreshment

Week 4 FOCUS - Journeys of Faith

1. Hurdles - doubt, discouragement
2. Helpers - faith community
3. Journey's end e.g. heaven, nirvana

Week 5 FOCUS - Difficult Journeys

1. Growing up e.g. next birthday, next class, next school, leaving school
2. Coping with loss and change
3. Growing old

Week 6 FOCUS - Journey Through Life

1. Joining/ initiation ceremonies
2. Marriage
3. Death & funeral rites

THEME : Celebration

TERM 6

Week 1 FOCUS - Celebrating Summer

1. Long days
2. Summer customs e.g. May pole dancing, barbecues
3. Holidays

Week 2 FOCUS - Religious Celebrations

1. Wesak (Buddhist)
2. Christian Pentecost - Whitsun
3. Jewish Pentecost - Shavuot

Week 3 FOCUS - How we Celebrate

1. Food e.g. bread & wine, parshad (Sikh)
2. Flowers e.g. flower festivals, Hindu celebrations
3. Raising the flag e.g. in Sikhism

Week 4 FOCUS - What we Celebrate

1. Freedom e.g. Independence day celebrations, Baisakhi (Sikh)
2. Past lives e.g. saints and holy people
3. Past events e.g. founding of faith communities

Week 5 FOCUS - Sport

1. Individual achievement
2. School teams
3. Sport and health

Week 6 FOCUS - Celebrating our achievements

1. What we have learnt
2. Feeling good
3. Targets for the future

Exemplar of how the seven themes may be used on any three days in the week in Year Seven of a seven year cycle

Suggestions for weekly content on the majority of days

THEME : Relationships TERM 1

Week 1 FOCUS - Knowing ourselves
1. Strengths
2. Limitations
3. What do I want most of all?

Week 2 FOCUS - Friendship
1. Making new friends
2. Staying friends
3. Looking out for someone

Week 3 FOCUS - Broken Relationships
1. Getting hurt
2. Divorce
3. Death

Week 4 FOCUS - Remaking Relationships
1. Forgiveness
2. Promises
3. Being reliable

Week 5 FOCUS - Harvest in religions
1. Christian harvest festival
2. Succoth (Jewish)
3. Harvest in another tradition

Week 6 FOCUS - Relating to God
1. Prayer in Judaism
2. Prayer in Islam
3. Prayer in Christianity

THEME : Communication

TERM 2

Week 1 FOCUS - Different Ways
1. Gestures in different cultures
2. Facial expressions
3. Speech

Week 2 FOCUS - Remembrance
1. Learning from past wars
2. War and anti-war music
3. Ways to heal divisions

Week 3 FOCUS - Symbols
1. Flags
2. Coat of Arms
3. Coins

Week 4 FOCUS - Listening to yourself
1. Talking to yourself
2. Dreams
3. Imagination

Week 5 FOCUS - Messages
1. Sending and receiving messages
2. Good News
3. Bad News

Week 6 FOCUS - A message from God?
1. Messengers from God
2. The Christian message e.g. goodwill
3. Messages from religions to us all e.g. about peace and reconciliation

THEME : Specialness

TERM 3

Week 1 FOCUS - The Natural World

1. The sea
2. Mountains and valleys
3. Trees

Week 2 FOCUS - Special Times

1. Martin Luther King Day (16 January)
2. Week of prayer for Christian unity
3. Spring and new birth

Week 3 FOCUS - Special Items

1. Prized possessions
2. Special items in religion
3. Trophies

Week 4 FOCUS - Special to some

1. Animals as companions
2. Particular books
3. A piece of music

Week 5 FOCUS - Pioneers

1. Conquerors of nature e.g. Edmund Hillary and Everest
2. Discoverers e.g. David Livingstone
3. Achieving social change e.g. William Wilberforce, Nelson Mandela

Week 6 FOCUS - Food in religious traditions

1. Vegetarianism and ideas about reincarnation
2. Kosher food
3. Coming together e.g. Seder meal (Jewish) and Eucharist (Christian)

THEME : Community

TERM 4

Week 1 FOCUS - The Unchanging Community

1. Houses and homes: a place to care
2. Factories and farms: a place to work
3. Churches and chapels: a place to dream

Week 2 FOCUS - Preserving our community

1. Links with the past - conservation
2. The present - health and social services
3. The future - necessary changes

Week 3 FOCUS - Communities in nature

1. Living together e.g. marmots
2. Working together e.g. ants, bees
3. Travelling together e.g. swallows

Week 4 FOCUS - Belonging to a community

1. Part of a team - co-operation
2. Interdependence
3. Standing up for principles e.g. protest

Week 5 FOCUS - The community of disciples

1. A mixed lot - faithful and faithless
2. Creating community
3. The community's last meal

Week 6 FOCUS - Broken and Restored

1. Followers frightened and scattered
2. Jesus alone
3. The community restored

THEME : Values

TERM 5

Week 1 FOCUS - The importance of Easter for Christmas
1. New life: triumph of life over death
2. New light: triumph of good over evil
3. New people: community of baptised

Week 2 FOCUS - Importance of Passover for Jews
1. Remembering slavery
2. Thanking God for freedom
3. Celebrating with family and friends

Week 3 FOCUS - Importance of Baisakhi for Sikhs
1. Looking back: remembering the Five
2. Looking forward: new year, new beginning
3. Celebrating now: unity, faith, brotherhood

Week 4 FOCUS - Importance of prayer in Faith communities
1. Important words e.g. Lord's prayer for Christians
2. Important movements e.g. rak'ahs for Muslims
3. Importance of silence e.g. meditation for Buddhists

Week 5 FOCUS - Importance of symbols in Faith communities
1. Cross for Christians
2. Menorah for Jews
3. Khanda for Sikhs

Week 6 FOCUS - Importance of ritual in Faith communities
1. Washing e.g. Wudu for Muslims
2. Eating and drinking e.g. Eucharist for Christians, Karah Parshad for Sikhs
3. Lighting candles e.g. Shabbat for Jews

THEME : Journey

TERM 6

- Week 1 FOCUS - Journeys in fiction
1. The Quest e.g. in I am David, The Hobbit
 2. Perils of the Unknown e.g. Narnia stories
 3. Journey's End e.g. Pilgrim's Progress
- Week 2 FOCUS - Prayers for the Journey
1. Psalms of trust e.g. 23, 25, 121, 139
 2. Psalms of desolation e.g. 137
 3. Psalms of joy e.g. 84, 122
- Week 3 FOCUS - Pilgrims
1. Places to go e.g. Lourdes, Benares, Jerusalem
 2. Reasons to go e.g. to honour figures for healing, to pray
 3. On arrival e.g. pray, bathe, offer gifts
- Week 4 FOCUS - Pilgrim's Music
1. From Canterbury cathedral
 2. From Aylesford Priory
 3. From elsewhere e.g. Iona, Taize
- Week 5 FOCUS - School visits
1. Learning from visit in the local community
 2. Learning from staying somewhere
 3. Learning from a visit abroad
- Week 6 FOCUS - Moving On
1. The old things: what we will miss
 2. The old things: what we will take with us
 3. The new: what we look forward to