Coley Primary School – Knowledge Organiser

SUBJECT FOCUS:	RE	YEAR 6	SUMMER TERM 1 & 2

Key Knowledge
Islam – Beliefs and Meaning
Does belief in Akhirah (life after death) help Muslims lead good lives?

Life after death

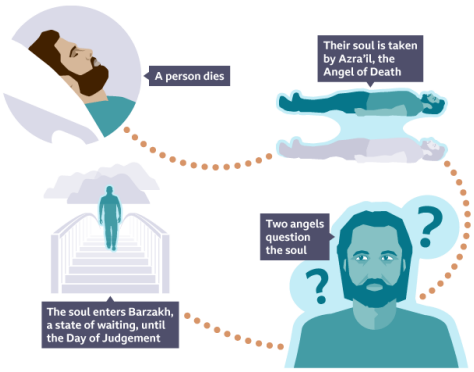
Akhirah is the word Muslims use to refer to life after death. Belief in an afterlife encourages Muslims to take **responsibility** for their **actions**. They know God will hold them **accountable** and reward or punish them accordingly.

Akhirah explains humans' existence on Earth, saying that life is a test from Allah. Importantly, though, Muslims believe that Allah will not test them beyond their limits.

The afterlife

After death, most Muslims believe that the **soul** will enter **Barzakh**, a state of waiting, until the **Day of Judgement**.

- When a person dies, their soul is taken by Azra'il, the Angel of Death.
- God sends two angels to question the waiting soul.
- If the questions are answered correctly, the good soul then sleeps during Barzakh.
- If the questions are not answered correctly, the soul is tormented by angels, known as punishment of the grave.



Heaven and Hell

- Muslims believe they get to **Paradise** by living religiously, asking Allah for **forgiveness** and showing good actions in their life. These good actions will be rewarded on the Last Day. Therefore, **obeying** the rules set by Allah is of ultimate importance.
- Muslims believe there are seven levels of Heaven. Each Heaven is made of a different material, and a different prophet lives in each Heaven. The first Heaven is made of silver and is where Adam and Eve live. Abraham lives in the seventh Heaven in a place made of divine light.
- Hell is described as a place of fire and torment. **Jahannam** is a place of scorching fire pits and boiling water, a place of physical and spiritual suffering. Vivid descriptions of hell are used in the Qur'an as a way to stop Muslims from participating in sin.
- Muslims believe that they will be sent to Hell if they reject the teachings of the Qur'an or take no responsibility for their actions. Either of these would mean that they had failed Allah's test.
- Some Muslims believe that even the souls in Hell can eventually be sent to Paradise. These beliefs give Muslims the **motivation** to follow the teachings in the Qur'an. They also give hope to those who suffer that there is something better to come in the future.

Key Knowledge

What is Jihad?

Jihad is defined as a personal **struggle** against evil. Muslims define Jihad in different ways, for some it is an individual daily struggle to do the right thing, to avoid **evil** and **temptation**. For some other Muslims jihad can be taken to mean literally fighting against a perceived enemy or evil. This has led some Muslims to take extreme action and even die for their faith as well as kill others in the belief that this action will lead them straight to paradise. This is unpopular in many parts of Islam but is popular in other groups and is often in the news. This has led to many people wrongly thinking all Muslims are violent.

Just War

A Just war is one that might be acceptable to fight in according to 5 conditions laid down by Thomas Aquinas in the 13th century. These conditions are:

- The war must be for a just cause.
- The war must be lawfully declared by a lawful authority.
- The intention behind the war must be good.
- All other ways of resolving the problem should have been tried first.
- There must be a reasonable chance of success.

A sixth condition was laid down more recently

- The means used must be in proportion to the end that the war seeks to achieve.

Holy War (Lesser Jihad)

For a war to be a holy war, religion has to be the driving force.

Holy wars usually have three elements:

- the achievement of a religious goal
- authorised by a religious leader
- a spiritual reward for those who take part

Key Vocabulary

Akhirah	Muslim word for referring to life after death
motivation	A reason or reasons for acting or behaving in a particular way
decision	A conclusion or resolution reached after consideration
judge	Give a verdict on something
spiritual	Relating to religion or religious belief
struggle	Have difficulty handling or coping with something, physically or mentally
effort	Strenuous physical or mental exertion
influences	A person or thing with the capacity to have an influence on someone or something
opinions	A view or judgement formed about something, not necessarily based on fact or knowledge
interpretation	The action of explaining the meaning of something
conditions	The circumstances or factors affecting the way in which people live or work

Learning Outcomes

Term 5

I can give examples of times my choices have been influenced and may have changed when I considered the consequences that might follow.

I can explain how believing in Akhirah influences Muslims to do their best to lead good lives.

I can recognise what motivates or influences me to lead a good life and compare it with what motivates and influences Muslims.

Term 6

I can give examples of times when I misinterpreted something.

I can explain two different Muslim interpretations of Jihad.

I can recognise what motivates me or influences me to lead a good life and compare it with what motivates and influences Muslims.

Possible experiences

- Debating/writing persuasive texts for something they believe in.
- Invite a Muslim visitor to talk with the children about the 'effort' they try to put in to follow the teachings of Allah.