

Appendix E - PROGRESSION IN JUDAISM – Aga Cahn - Beth Shalom Cambridge

KS1

<p>SYNAGOGUE Visit a local Synagogue. Locate all important features of the Synagogue: Mezuzah, Bima, Eternal Light and the Arc with the Torah scrolls. Know that a Synagogue is a meeting place and a studying place but also a place where Jewish people celebrate most of their Festivals. Recognize some Jewish symbols: Star of David, Menorah and some ceremonial clothing like Kippah and Talit.</p>	<p>SHABBAT Know that Shabbat is the most important Jewish Festival and that it starts on Friday evening and finishes on Saturday evening. Know that it has been celebrated by the Jewish people for thousands of years in memory of God’s resting day during the creation of the world. Know that Jewish people are supposed to rest on Shabbat and that there are many activities they are not allowed to perform on that day. Hear some Shabbat blessings and songs, know that they are recited and sung in Hebrew.</p>	<p>TORAH AND COMMANDMENTS Know that Torah is the holiest document for every Jewish person. Know that it was given to the Jewish people by their leader and greatest prophet: Moses on Mount Sinai, many centuries ago. Know that Torah scrolls are made of special pieces of parchment and every word written in them has to be absolutely perfect and is usually written by a professional scribe. Know that it includes 10 Christian Commandments (among many other commandments kept by Jewish people). Know that the stories in the Torah are known to Christians as Old Testament. Hear some stories from the Torah: the story of Abraham and Isaac, of Jacob and Esau and the story of Moses receiving Torah from God.</p>	<p>JEWISH LIFE Know that centuries ago Jewish people used to live in the Middle East as a nomadic nation but nowadays they live all over the world. Know that there are many important moments in a Jewish person’s life: birth, coming of age, marriage and death. Know that Jewish calendar is different and the Jewish Year starts in Autumn. Know some basic information related to Rosh Hashana (New Year), Yom Kippur. Find out about the Maccabees revolt and the Chanukkah miracle when a small jug of oil used to light the Menorah lasted for 8 days. Listen to some Chanukkah songs, sing some in English. Play dreidel. Become familiar with the Pesach story, when Moses brought the Jews out of Egypt, out of slavery, how they crossed the Red Sea and received the Torah and the Promised Land.</p>
--	--	---	---

Appendix E - PROGRESSION IN JUDAISM – Aga Cahn - Beth Shalom Cambridge

KS2

<p>SYNAGOGUE Know that there are different groups of the Jewish people, understand the basic difference between Orthodox and Reform Judaism. If possible visit one Orthodox and one Reform Synagogue, observe differences in separation or lack of separation of space for men and women, differences in clothing (Orthodox men having to wear tzitzit and covering their heads with kippot all the time, Orthodox married women covering heads, complete equality in Reform Synagogues). Listen to the sound of the Shofar. Find out about Jewish Communities constructing special hats for the Festival of Sukkot in memory of wandering in the desert after leaving Egypt. If possible visit one local Sukkah during the festival, shake a lulav or observe Jewish people performing this tradition. Meet a rabbi, have an opportunity to ask him questions about his work. If not possible: „ask a rabbi” by e-mail.</p>	<p>SHABBAT Know that every Shabbat starts with the lighting of two candles and blessing over wine and bread and finishes with Havdalah – which means separation. Havdalah candles are pleated to symbolise a liason between Shabbat and the everyday, between sacrum and profanum, God and people. Know some differences between the ways Orthodox and Reform Jews celebrate Shabbat. (using light, driving cars) „Shabbat Shalom” - Understand the importance of Shalom – Peace as a space for spirituality, for God and goodness, time shared with family and friends, time for reflection about the meaning of life. The concept of Shabbat as a day dedicated to God through celebrating his creations and respecting them.</p>	<p>TORAH AND COMMANDMENTS Know that Torah scrolls consist of the 5 books of Moses which can also be read as a printed book. Know that there are 613 commandments in the Torah for Jewish people to follow. Know that the first book starts with a description of the creation of the world and the last one finishes with the death of Moses. Know that apart from the 5 Books of Moses (in the Torah Scrolls) there are more books in the Jewish Bible (24 altogether) and that the majority of them are shared with Christians, for example Book of Psalms. Find out about King David and his story. Interpretation of Psalms. Know that in Jewish tradition there exists the Written Torah (24 books) and the Oral Torah (interpretations and traditions passed down from generation to generation) and that through the Oral Torah Jewish people are able to understand the meaning of the words of the Written Torah.</p>	<p>JEWISH LIFE Know the Jewish calendar (New Year starting in Autumn, days starting with sunsets, some festivals being related to particular seasons). Find out more about Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur and the 10 day period between them when Jewish people try to ask forgiveness for all their wrong doings in the previous year. Link this with concepts of sins and forgiveness. Know that in Judaism there are sins that cannot be forgiven by God. Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony – becoming son or daughter of the commandments – what does it mean to be responsible for one’s actions and for the whole community? Find out about the spiritual meaning of the Hebrew alphabet („letters of fire”), numerical value of letters and words. Bar Mitzvah sermon – reflection on Torah stories – what do these stories mean to a boy/girl in the XXI century Britain.</p>
--	--	---	---

Appendix E - PROGRESSION IN JUDAISM – Aga Cahn - Beth Shalom Cambridge

KS3

<p>SYNAGOGUE Know when Jewish people come to Synagogues: (Friday evening – Kabbalat Shabbat to welcome Shabbat, Saturday morning, Orthodox groups also Saturday afternoon and evening, Yom Kippur all day long prayers, every Festival of the year, also important days like Yom HaShoah – Holocaust Memorial Day). Know what are the main roles related to the running of Synagogues: a rabbi, a warden (Gabbai), an administrator. Find out about the activities of the local Synagogue: Mitzvah Day, Food Bank collections, running Shelters for homeless people in winter. Find out about inter-faith events organised locally, try to participate in one of them.</p>	<p>SHABBAT Know the Jewish concept of Tikkun Olam – repairing of the world, to make the world the best place possible for everyone. Link it with environmental issues. Link it with the problem of today’s political conflicts. Shabbat and its central place in Jewish culture and tradition. Shabbat in Israel and the diaspora. Life in the diaspora (outside Israel) and a cultural concept of „wandering Jew”. Some historical facts: many expulsions, pogroms and attacks on Jews happened on Shabbat – problem of antisemitism and its different sources in the past and today. Stories of Christian and Muslim people saving Jews during the Holocaust. „Who saves one life saves the world entire” – says Talmud (part of the Oral Torah). Judaism and its attitude to life. Know that Judaism does not concentrate on an afterlife.</p>	<p>TORAH AND COMMANDMENTS Know the first lines of the „Shma” Prayer and their meaning to Jewish people. (Also that the words are kept inside Mezuzot and inside Tefillin/Phylacterie). Observe an Orthodox man putting on his Tefillin. (in a movie fragment or on-line instruction) Did God allow the Holocaust to happen? – know that many Jewish philosophers struggled with this question. Difficult fragments in the Torah and how do we deal with them today? Interpreting Torah in the spirit of dialogue – scriptural reasoning groups. Torah and problems with homosexuality. Different approaches among Orthodox and Reform communities. Does a Jew have to believe in God or is it enough that he lives according to his commandments? (for more interested students)</p>	<p>JEWISH LIFE Know that Israel as a state was created after WWII, in May 1948, but that many Jews lived there since ancient times. Find out about many initiatives trying to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Are religions helping the peace process or making it more difficult. How can we avoid religious conflicts? Interfaith education programmes in the UK. The role of the Woolf Institute at Cambridge University in building bridges between the three Abrahamic faiths. Judaism in culture – famous festivals of Jewish culture. (Jewish Culture Festival in Kraków).</p>
---	--	---	---

Appendix E - PROGRESSION IN JUDAISM – Aga Cahn - Beth Shalom Cambridge