

The Colour of God	KS2	No. of lessons: half a term
Links: Cambs: CPE2, CPE3, CWR2, CWR3, CFF1, CFF2, CFF4, CSC1, P'borough: CPE3, CPE4, CWR1, CWR3, CRC1, CRC2, CRC4, CSC1, N'folk: CBB, CP, CW, CKF		
Learning objectives: To discover the pattern of the Church's liturgical year. To become familiar with stories of the life of Jesus as they relate to Christian festivals. To explore their emotions and concepts such as self-preparation, celebration and remembrance in their own lives and the life of the Church.		
Questions for reflection: What kind of things upset you or delight you? What is your favourite time of the year and why? What is it like waiting a long time for something important to happen (good or bad)? What books or stories have you read or heard which made you think? How did they do this?		
Activities and experiences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk together about the ways in which different colours mean different things to different people. You may like to use a stimulus such as the poem "the Paint-box (see notes). No two people will automatically choose the same colour palate when asked to describe their emotions in colour (e.g. is green for the wonderful outdoors, or the ghastly green vegetables I hate?), so ask each pupil (using felt pens) to record the colours which for them personally mean: depressed, afraid, anxious, angry, lonely, sad, disappointed, peaceful, thankful, hopeful, trusting, loving and joyful. <i>(With younger children you would obviously use a more limited number of emotions!)</i> Keep these emotion charts private, but ready for future use. • Understand how the Church also uses different colours to express religious emotions by changing the colours of liturgical vestments, altar frontals etc to match the season. To start with do NOT talk about the colours actually used (although some pupils will be able to tell you). • Give each pupil an outline pie chart of the liturgical year with the festivals marked (you can use the one on the notes pages, but remove the details about colours first). Talk through the chart together, establishing which stories about Jesus are told at different times. <i>Important - Hear the stories if you cannot remember them – see chart for full list of references.</i> After each segment has been discussed, ask pupils to fill in the appropriate colour block using their own personal colour key (they may use more than one colour in a segment). The colours should reflect how they think Christians will be feeling as they celebrate the different seasons and remember these stories or teachings. This could take several sessions. Finally share the results – they should be radically different! • Now go back to the real liturgical year pie chart and check out the colours actually used and their meanings. If possible, visit the church to see a full set of vestments or frontals – they might also have symbols on them connected with the festivals. You may like to finish the topic by asking pupils to re-design one of these using their own colour palate....but make sure they also have recorded the information about the real liturgical year appropriately! <p>For more RE ideas on the theme of colour you may like to look at "Colours of God" by Diana Murrie published by brf www.brf.org.uk</p>		