

Glossary of key terms – Christianity

	Word	Definition
EYFS	Advent	The first season of the Christian year leading up to Christmas and including the four preceding Sundays
	Altar	The table at the front of a church where the bread and wine are consecrated
	Bible	The Christian holy book
	Christian	A follower of Christianity
	Christmas	The annual Christian ceremony celebrating the birth of Jesus
	Church	1 Church- The community of Christian believers 2 church- The building where Christians worship
	Faith	A belief in the doctrines of a believer
	Festival	A day of celebration for religious reasons
	Font	A receptacle in a church for baptism
	God	The creator and ruler of the universe and source of all moral authority; the supreme being
	Harvest	A festival to celebrate the gathering in of the crops where gifts of food are traditionally collected and distributed
	Jesus Christ	The Son of God. Also referred to by other terms including Messiah, the Son of God
	Magi	The 'wise men' from the East who brought gifts to the infant Jesus at the Epiphany
	Nativity	The birth of Jesus
	Pew	Bench seating in a church
	Priest	A religious leader, traditionally in the Roman Catholic faith
	Pulpit	A raised stand for preachers in a church
	Shepherd	Someone who looks after sheep
	Spire	The tall, pointed structure at the top of some churches
	Vicar	A religious leader, traditionally in the Anglican faith
	Worship	The expression of reverence and adoration of a deity
Key Stage 1 As above and:	Baptism	The sacrament by which a believer becomes a full member of the Christian community
	Ceremony	A formal religious occasion
	Creator	A term to refer to God who Christians believe created the Earth
	Godparents	A person who presents a child at baptism and promises to take responsibility for their religious education
	Gospel	One of four books in the New Testament of the Bible, written by one of four disciples of Jesus (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John)
	Incarnation	The belief that God took human form when Jesus was born
	Messiah	A term used to refer to Jesus as the one born to bring salvation
	Prayer	The means by which a believer communicates with God
	Salvation	Being saved
	Saviour	The person or being who saves
	Sin	A mistake or wrong choice that goes against the teachings of the Church
	Son of God	A term used to refer to Jesus

Lower Key Stage 2 As above and:	Abrahamic Faiths	Christianity, Islam and Judaism- three faiths who claim the Prophet Abraham
	Agapé	A selfless love of others
	Biblical	Related to or contained in the Bible
	Christingle	A lighted candle symbolizing Christ as the light of the world, held by children at a special service generally held in Advent
	Creation	The act of the world and everything being originally formed by God
	Creed	A statement of beliefs
	Cross	A symbol of Christianity
	Denominations	Branches of Christianity
	Disciple	A follower of Jesus
	Divine	Of or like God
	Genesis	The first book of the Old Testament of the Bible where the account of Creation is written
	Holy Spirit	Part of the Holy Trinity that is believed to be spiritually active in the world
	Lent	The period of forty days leading up to Easter
	Mission	The vocation of a religious organisation
	New Testament	The second part of the Bible relating to the life and teachings of Jesus and His earliest followers
	Old Testament	The first part of the Bible
	Parables	A story told by Jesus to teach a message
	Pentecost	The festival held fifty days after Easter to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit
	Prophet	A person chosen by God to teach a message
	Resurrection	The belief that Jesus rose again at Easter
	Sacrifice	The act of giving or offering something up
Upper Key Stage 2 As above and:		
	Atonement	The act of making amends
	Confession / Reconciliation	The sacrament where sins are admitted and forgiveness from God received
	Crucifix	The cross on which Jesus died. A symbol of Christianity
	Eucharist	The sacrament where Christians receive the body and blood of Christ in the form of bread and wine
	Grace	The free and unmerited favour of God
	Holy Land	A region in what is now Israel and Palestine, revered by Christians as the place in which Christ lived
	Holy Week	The Week before Easter starting on Palm Sunday
	Lord's Prayer	The prayer taught to the disciples by Jesus that begins, 'Our Father'
	Merciful	Showing or expressing mercy
	Miracle	Extraordinary events performed by Jesus
	Original Sin	The belief that sin is innate in all human beings as a result of The Fall
	Pilgrimage	A religious journey
	repentance	The act of showing remorse for a sin
	Sacrament	A religious ceremony or event regarded as imparting divine grace such as baptism, or reconciliation
	The Fall	The transition of Adam and Eve from a state of obedience to disobedience after eating the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge
	Trinity	God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit