

Vien Giac Temple
Special Religious Education
- Buddhism -
Scope and Sequence
for
Years K-6



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"In everything you do, be mindful."

Vien Giac Temple Special Religious Education - Buddhism

Scope and Sequence for Primary School (Years K-6)

Rationale

The overarching purpose of Buddhism classes offered by Vien Giac Temple is to give children the opportunity to learn to **think, reflect, explore, act and create** so that mindfulness and loving-kindness may develop within each one. Children will also learn to gain inner peace through **meditation skills**.

Classes are centred on the life and teachings of the Buddha and how these can be used in day-to-day situations to solve life problems. This will help children to develop healthy minds to lead a healthy life in a healthy society.

Units of study

Content is organised into three educational stages as identified by the NSW Department of Education and Training.

Stage 1: K-2

Stage 2: Years 3 & 4

Stage 3: Years 5 & 6

The core content is similar through all stages: children will study the life of the Buddha; Buddhist beliefs and the Buddhist community; and the teachings of the Buddha together with some Buddhist stories. However, points within each unit become more abstract and/or complex in each stage as appropriate to the ages of the children in classes, and children will be expected to respond as appropriate to their age and stage of learning. All units incorporate reflection on the Buddhist values (paramitas) of loving kindness, generosity, equal love for all, moderation (the 'Middle Way'), patience, effort, wisdom, honesty, perseverance and 'right action' (moral conduct).

The Life of the Buddha

	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
	The Story of the Buddha	The Life of the Buddha	The Life of the Buddha (1 & 2)
<i>Aim:</i>	To outline the main events of the Buddha's life. To demonstrate how special the Buddha was.	To outline key aspects of the Buddha's life together with key learnings.	To outline key aspects of the Buddha's life, his goals and his learnings.
<i>Outcomes:</i>	Through appropriate activities, children will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> describe important events in the life of the Buddha; relate why the Buddha decided to change his life; relate how the Buddha became enlightened; describe how they can live more like the Buddha. 	Through appropriate activities, children will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> describe important events in the life of the Buddha; reflect on Buddhist values; identify behaviours that can help them in their daily lives. 	Through appropriate activities, children will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> describe important events in the life of the Buddha; reflect on the relevance of these to the Path of the Buddha; reflect on how Buddhist values can guide their daily lives; develop an appreciation for living a balanced life (the Middle Way).
<i>Key resources:</i>	Yin, J. & Hudson, K. (2000) <i>Buddhism Key Stage 1</i> . Buddhist Education Foundation: Great Britain.	Landaw, J. & Brooke, J. (2003). <i>Prince Siddhartha: The Story of Buddha</i> . Boston: Wisdom. Smith, S. E. & Seah, S. (2018) <i>Discovering Buddha: Lessons for Primary School</i> (3 rd ed.). Melbourne, Australia: Buddhist	Landaw, J. & Brooke, J. (2003). <i>Prince Siddhartha: The Story of Buddha</i> . Boston: Wisdom. Smith, S. E. & Seah, S. (2018) <i>Discovering Buddha: Lessons for Primary School</i> (3 rd ed.). Melbourne, Australia: Buddhist

		Council of Victoria.	Council of Victoria.
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Buddhists Beliefs and Community

	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
	The Dharma & The Sangha	What do Buddhists Believe?	Buddhist Beliefs
Aim:	To outline some key Buddhist beliefs. To explain how Buddhist teachings are spread.	To outline some key Buddhist beliefs. To explain how Buddhist teachings are spread. To describe Buddhism in the modern world.	To outline key Buddhist beliefs. To introduce Buddhism in the modern world.
Outcomes:	Through appropriate activities, children will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> outline some key Buddhist beliefs i.e avoid doing bad; do good; and keep a healthy mind; describe what they can do in their daily lives to avoid doing bad; do good; and keep a healthy mind; relate why it is important to follow these behaviours; identify the difference between nuns and monks and lay teachers (the Sangha); discuss how the Sangha is important in Buddhism. 	Through appropriate activities, children will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> outline the Four Noble Truths*; discuss how the Four Noble Truths relate to their lives; describe how Buddhist teachings are spread; outline why the Sangha* is important; describe key features of the Buddha’s appearance in statues; indicate where Buddhists live in the world today. 	Through appropriate activities, children will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> describe what they know about the life of the Buddha; outline the Four Noble Truths*; outline the Noble Eight-fold Path*; outline the Five Precepts*; discuss how these three principles relate to their lives; relate how they can follow the Four Noble Truths; the Noble Eight-fold Path and the Five Precepts; identify different types of Buddhism and where in the world these occur; describe the role of Buddhism in the world today.
Key resources:	Yin, J. & Hudson, K. (2000) <i>Buddhism Key Stage I</i> . Buddhist Education Foundation: Great Britain.	Landaw, J. & Brooke, J. (2003). <i>Prince Siddhartha: The Story of Buddha</i> . Boston: Wisdom. Smith, S. E. & Seah, S. (2018) <i>Discovering Buddha: Lessons for Primary School (3rd ed.)</i> . Melbourne, Australia: Buddhist Council of Victoria. Yin, J. & Ho, W. (2002) <i>Buddhism: Key Stage II</i> . Buddhist Education Foundation: United Kingdom	Smith, S. E. & Seah, S. (2018) <i>Discovering Buddha: Lessons for Primary School (3rd ed.)</i> . Melbourne, Australia: Buddhist Council of Victoria.

* see [Glossary](#) for explanation

Please note that children will be introduced to the Buddhist festivals of Vesak (Buddha’s birthday) and Ullambana (Remembrance of Ancestors) in May (Term 2) and August (Term 3) respectively. They will learn the significance of each festival and reflect on the meaning of each in terms of their own lives and behaviours.

The Teachings of the Buddha

	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
	Buddhist Stories	Stories from the Buddha’s Life & Buddhist Stories	Lessons from Buddhism
<i>Aim:</i>	To relate some Buddhist stories that children can take life lessons from.	To introduce stories from the life of the Buddha along with exemplars that children can take life lessons from.	To introduce stories from the life of the Buddha along with exemplars that children can take life lessons from. To introduce concepts of change and impermanence.
<i>Outcomes:</i>	Through appropriate activities, children will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify the relevant virtue (Paramita*); • state how/why the virtue is important; • outline how they can practice the virtue in their daily life. 	Through appropriate activities, children will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify the relevant virtue (Paramita*); • state how/why the virtue is important; • outline how they can practice the virtue in their daily life. 	Through appropriate activities, children will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify the relevant virtue (Paramita*); • state how/why the virtue is important; • outline how they can practice the virtue in their daily life); • discuss how change is a natural part of life.
<i>Key resources:</i>	Yin, J. & Hudson, K. (2000) <i>Buddhism Key Stage I</i> . Buddhist Education Foundation: Great Britain.	Landaw, J. & Brooke, J. (2003). <i>Prince Siddhartha: The Story of Buddha</i> . Boston: Wisdom. Smith, S. E. & Seah, S. (2018) <i>Discovering Buddha: Lessons for Primary School</i> (3 rd ed.). Melbourne, Australia: Buddhist Council of Victoria.	Smith, S. E. & Seah, S. (2018) <i>Discovering Buddha: Lessons for Primary School</i> (3 rd ed.). Melbourne, Australia: Buddhist Council of Victoria.

* see [Glossary](#) for explanation

Approach to lessons

Each lesson will begin with 10 minutes’ guided meditation. Following this, the teacher will focus on a point from the designated unit. Generally, the teacher will begin by guiding the students in discussion that will introduce the theme of the lesson, then information or a story will be presented in spoken or written form along with images, where possible and appropriate. This will be followed by an opportunity for students to respond to the ideas within that information or story through activities such as talking, discussing, debating, art and craft activities, matching or other tasks, writing or acting as appropriate to the children’s age and the aim of the lesson. The teacher will ensure that there is a range of activity types within and between lessons so that children remain engaged and are able to achieve unit learning outcomes.

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SAMPLE WEEKLY OUTLINE: STAGE 1 (K-2)

Wk	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
1	<i>The Story of the Buddha</i> (BI/U1) Queen Maya's Dream	<i>The Dharma</i> (BI/U2) Introduction to the Dharma (the teachings of the Buddha)	<i>The Sangha</i> (BI/U3) Introduction to the Sangha (people who spread the dharma)	<i>Buddhist Stories</i> (BI/U5) Introduction to the stories
2	The Birth of Prince Siddhartha	Do not do bad	Monks	Wild Deer Park – No killing
3	The Swan		Nuns	The Moon is Looking at You - No stealing
4	The Prince Grows Up		Lay people	The Buddha and Rahula - No lying
5	The Four Sights		Do good	Review: why is the Sangha important?
6	The Prince Looks for Another Path	<i>The Triple Gem</i> (BI/U4) Introduction to the Triple Gem		The Buddha Threading the Needle - Help each other
7	The Prince becomes the Buddha	The Buddha		The Crippled Man and the Blind Man - Help each other
8	How to be Happy and Wise	Keep your mind healthy	The Dharma	The Fish Seller - Make good friends
9	The Teachings of Buddha		The Sangha	The Fox and the Otters - Do not be selfish
10	The Death of the Buddha		Review: why is the Triple Gem important?	The Snake's Head and Tail - Do not fight with each other

Key: B1 = Buddhism: Key Stage I

SAMPLE WEEKLY OUTLINE: STAGE 2 (YRS 3 & 4)

Wk	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
1	<i>The Life of the Buddha</i> (DB/IB1) Introduction	<i>What do Buddhists Believe?</i> Introduction	<i>Stories from the Buddha's Life</i> Introduction	<i>Buddhist Stories</i> Introduction
2	A Prince is Born	The Four Noble Truths (B2/U2)	The Wounded Swan (DB/LB2) - Loving kindness, wisdom	Love to All Creatures (DB/LB3) - Kindness
3	The Young Prince			The Banyan Deer (DB/JP4) - Compassion
4	The Four Sights	The Sangha (nuns and monks, lay teachers) (B2/U2)	The Strings of the Lute (DB/LB12) - Moderation	The Duck with the Golden Plumage (DB/JP4) - Greed
5	Leaving Home			The Donkey in the Lion's Skin (DB/JP7) - Honesty
6	The Wandering Holy Man	The Appearance of the Buddha (DB/IB3)	The Golden Bowl (DB/JP6) - Honesty	The Talkative Tortoise (DB/JP11) - Moderation
7	The Enlightenment			The Monkeys Water the Trees (DB/JP15) - Wisdom
8	The Parinirvana	Where do Buddhists live today? (DB/IB5)	Prince Five Weapons (DB/JP13) - Effort, perseverance	Lessons from a Monkey (DB/JP12) - Making an effort
9	Life of the Buddha - review			The Quails and the Net (DB/MV6) - Connections with others
10	How is the Buddha important today?	Review – What do Buddhists Believe?	Review – Stories from the Buddha's Life	Review – Buddhist Stories

Key: DB = Discovering Buddha: Lessons for Primary School

B2 = Buddhism Key Stage II


SAMPLE WEEKLY OUTLINE: STAGE 3 (YRS 5 & 6)

Wk	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
1	<i>Buddhist Beliefs</i> Introduction: the Sangha	<i>Life of the Buddha (1)</i> Birth and Naming (DB/LB1)	<i>Life of the Buddha (2)</i> The Decision to Renounce (DB/LB11)	<i>Lessons from Buddhism</i> Introduction – the Paramitas
2	Life Story of the Buddha (DB/IB1) - Review	The Rose Apple Tree (DB/LB4)	The Easy Path, The Hard Path & the Middle Path (DB/LB13)	The Buffalo and the Monkey (DB/JP8) - Patience
3	The Four Noble Truths (DB/IB6)	The Marriage Contests (DB/LB5)	Sujata's Offering: Breaking from the Peer Group (DB/LB15)	The Tortoise who would Not Leave Home (DB/JP6)
4				Have my Efforts Been Worthwhile? (DB/JP14) – Effort, persistence
5	The Noble Eight-fold Path (DB/IB7)	The Pleasure Palaces (DB/LB6)	The Great Battle (DB/LB16)	The Good Doctor (DB/JP16) - Wisdom
6		A Father's Concern (DB/LB7)	Awakened! (DB/LB17)	The Drunken Beetle (DB/JP18) - Wisdom, right action
7	The Five Precepts (DB/IB8)	The King's Order (DB/LB8)	Enlightenment (DB/LB18)	A Bush Turkey and a False-Friend Falcon (DB/MV5) - Integrity, kindness, compassion
8		The Four Sights (DB/LB9)		Change in Myself (DB/CI1) - Awareness of impermanence
9	Buddhism in the World Today (DB/IB5)		The Buddha Returns to His Family (DB/LB23)	Cycles of Change (DB/CI3) - Change is natural
10	Review	Review (DB/LB10)	The Final Days: Be a Lamp unto Yourself (DB/LB25)	Review

Key: DB = Discovering Buddha: Lessons for Primary School

B2 = Buddhism Key Stage II

Glossary

the dharma	The teachings of the Buddha
Prince Siddhartha	The name of the Buddha before he achieved enlightenment.
mudras	<p>Seven hand gestures that have a specific meaning in Buddhism. One example is the following, which signifies turning the wheel of Dharma (teaching) while meditating.</p>  <p>Source: https://www.buddhanet.net/e-learning/history/mudras.htm</p>
The Five Precepts	<p>The Five Precepts are a guide to moral behaviour for daily living. They are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do not harm any living being. 2. Do not steal. 3. Do not engage in sexual misconduct (interpreted for children as 'Respect others', or 'Be a loyal and faithful friend'). 4. Do not lie. 5. Avoid intoxicants (interpreted for children as 'actions') that are harmful to your mind or body.
The Four Noble Truths	<p>The Four Noble Truths is an explanation the world as it is and how to deal with it. The Truths are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. suffering 2. the cause of suffering 3. the end of suffering 4. the path that leads to the end of suffering. <p>The Four Noble Truths show that suffering is always with us; that this suffering is caused by wanting pleasure; that it can end; and that following the Noble Eight-fold Path (see below) can help to end it.</p>
The Noble Eight-fold Path	<p>The Noble Eight-fold Path is seen as a valuable guide for living and a way to end suffering. It involves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right understanding; • Right effort; • Right intention; • Right livelihood; • Right mindfulness; • Right speech; • Right action; and • Right meditation.
The Paramitas	<p>Buddhists are encouraged to practise a number of virtues, known as the Paramitas. The virtues help people live free from trouble and also support the development of an enlightened mind.</p> <p>They have been expressed in a simple way for children as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loving kindness • Generosity (material and personal)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equal love for everyone • Moderation (the 'Middle Way') • Effort • Wisdom • Honesty • Perseverance • Right action (following the Five Precepts above) <p>The Paramitas are exemplified in a large number of stories from the life of the Buddha, as well as through stories about people and animals.</p>
the Parinirvana	The death of the Buddha
Rahula	The son of the Buddha
the Sangha	Monks and nuns, who spread the teachings of the Buddha
Samsara	The cycle of birth, death and rebirth.
Ullambana	This festival, held every year in August, provides an opportunity for people to remember their ancestors and to have compassion for all who are suffering.
Vesak	This festival celebrates the birth of the Buddha and is held on the first full moon in May.