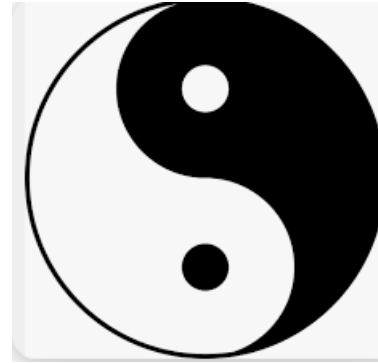


Year 6

Religious Education

Alternative Religions

To explore other alternative religions around the world.



Alternative Religions

*** An alternative religion is a new religious movements with modern origins often with a small number of followers, examples we have studied are Jediism and Rastafarianism**

* Jediism originates from the 1977 Star Wars films and books produced by George Lucas, in 2008 Daniel Jones founded the 'International Church of Jediism'. Its core beliefs centre on the idea of 'The Force' an energy that flows through all things and joins the universe together. They also believe that humans can tap into the Force to unlock greater potential. A census was held in 2001 and in total: 390,127 claimed they were part of the Jedi religion.

* Rastafarianism originated in Africa as a response to the oppressive slave trade. Guided by Marcus Garvey in the 1920's he is considered to be one of the religion's prophets, he taught people to be proud of their race and stand against oppression. He predicted God would return again to Earth and create a new world 'Zion' for those who has been enslaved and mistreated. In 1930 Haile Selassie I was appointed as Emperor of Ethiopia, he is believed to be the second coming, like Jesus, he is thought to be God in human form who has visited Earth. They believe in one God (Jah) and the key theme of Rastafari is that they will one day return to Africa, and particularly to Ethiopia - 'Zion' - the spiritual ideal world of Rastafari. They often use cannabis in religious ceremonies to connect to God which has caused controversy

***Issues: Many alternative religions are ridiculed and not respected despite great importance to the believer. Technically as long as the criteria set out by UK law is met anyone can create their own religion. Problems surrounding drug use and inequality in Rastafarianism – should religion encourage drug use? Can religions be exclusive?**



