Our Own Ritual
Can you sort the rituals on the cards into two groups?

How will you choose to sort them?

Discuss different ways you could sort the cards with your group.
Ritual or Routine?

It is important to remember the difference between a ritual and a routine.

Can you remember the difference between a routine and a ritual?

A routine is a series of actions repeated in the same way regularly.

A ritual is a series of actions repeated in the same way but the actions have a special meaning. The person carrying out the actions thinks about the meaning of what they are doing.
Ritual or Routine?

Can you sort the following actions which might happen in a school, deciding if you think they are routines or rituals?

Click the Ritual or Routine buttons below to show where you think each action belongs.

Hanging your coat on your peg. ✔
Ritual or Routine?

Can you sort the following actions which might happen in a school, deciding if you think they are routines or rituals?

Clapping for someone who has achieved something.

- Ritual
- Routine

Hanging your coat on your peg.
Ritual or Routine?

Can you sort the following actions which might happen in a school, deciding if you think they are routines or rituals?

- Getting changed for PE.
- Clapping for someone who has achieved something.
- Hanging your coat on your peg.

Ritual:
- Clapping for someone who has achieved something.

Routine:
- Getting changed for PE.
- Hanging your coat on your peg.
Ritual or Routine?

Can you sort the following actions which might happen in a school, deciding if you think they are routines or rituals?

Ritual

- Clapping for someone who has achieved something.

Routine

- Hanging your coat on your peg.
- Getting changed for PE.

Singing ‘Happy Birthday’ to someone.
Ritual or Routine?

Can you sort the following actions which might happen in a school, deciding if you think they are routines or rituals?

Passing a toy around the circle and everyone saying something good that happened on that day.

- Ritual
  - Clapping for someone who has achieved something.
  - Singing ‘Happy Birthday’ to someone.

- Routine
  - Hanging your coat on your peg.
  - Getting changed for PE.
Many religious rituals include repetition, which means doing something more than once. This might mean that specific actions are repeated, such as saying special words over again. Or, it might mean that the ritual itself is repeated.

Many religious rituals include prayer. They might include prayers to be said out loud, or prayers that people say in their heads. People might have a special position, order or time for prayer rituals. Prayer is a way for religious believers to communicate with their god.

Can you remember any of the features of religious rituals? Click on each feature for more information.
A New Ritual

Do you have any rituals that you do at the end of a school day to say goodbye to each other before you leave the classroom?

Imagine that you have been asked to develop a new ritual for the end of the school day.

There are lots of practical jobs that need to be done at the end of the day. Can you think of any? Share your ideas with your talk partner.

You might have said:
• tidy your tables;
• collect your water bottle and lunch box;
• pack your bag;
• collect/put on your coat.
A New Ritual

For our end of the day ritual to truly be a ritual, we know that it needs to have a deeper meaning and that the people performing the ritual need to be thinking about that meaning.

What could be the deeper meaning of an end of the school day ritual?

What message do you want to give one another at the end of a school day?

How do you want to feel as you walk out of your classroom each day?
A New Ritual

Maybe you thought you’d like to:

• wish everyone a lovely evening/weekend;
• thank everyone for being a kind friend;
• congratulate others on any achievements;
• reflect back on any good things that happened that day;
• think about what you learnt;
• feel proud about your achievements that day.
Designing a Ritual

In your groups, discuss what you could include in your ritual at the end of the day.

Maybe you will include actions, chants or songs.

Practise doing your ritual so that you can show another group later.

This parting ritual can be fun but remember that rituals are usually serious so it shouldn’t be too silly.
Use what you have learnt about religious rituals to help you design this non-religious ritual.

Questions to think about...

How will you say goodbye to everyone?
How will you celebrate achievements?
How will you make sure everyone goes home feeling good about themselves?
Sharing Ideas

Each group will now present their idea for a new ritual to the class. Listen carefully to each group’s ideas.

- What ideas did you especially like?
- Did you see any features of the religious rituals we have been learning about?
Word, Words, Words

Can you think of words that are associated with the religious rituals we have learnt about?

You will have a minute to write as many as you can on your whiteboard.

What words did you come up with?