

Religious
education...

...opens
doors!

The background of the entire page is a soft-focus photograph of children's hands and school supplies. On the left, a child's arm in a black and white striped shirt is visible. In the center, a child's hand holds a yellow pencil. To the right, a green folder with a ladybug sticker is partially visible. The overall tone is warm and educational.

Dear mothers and fathers,
dear parents and guardians

Your child learns to read, write, calculate and other essential skills at school that help them find their way in our world. Religious education as a subject also plays a significant role because religions are an integral part of our cultural heritage and global society. The Basic Law of the federal republic of Germany guarantees freedom of religion, granting your child the right to learn about various belief systems. Religious education contributes uniquely to this understanding apart from church communities and daycare centers. Here your child will acquire knowledge about religious beliefs, develop critical thinking skills and cultivate a deeper understanding of people and the world. It is important to us that your child becomes competent in the interpretation of religion, and to that end, we would like to share important highlights about religious education in Bad Vilbel.

*Your working group of Protestant &
Catholic religious education teachers &
Representatives of the Protestant parishes*

Religious education opens doors...

... behind which life is celebrated!

... for accompaniment on the path of life!

... to rediscover “me” and “you”!

.... to try out religious practice!

... for the Bible as a cultural asset!

... to have a mind of one's own

... for intercultural competence!

... to the big questions of life!

Further information on the individual topics can
be found on the following pages!



.... behind which life is celebrated!

Life can be celebrated in many ways. Festivals throughout the year, such as St. Martin's Day, Easter and Christmas, reveal the basic connections of human life in a way that is easy for children to understand. How and why do we celebrate these festivals? This is one of the central topics in religious education.

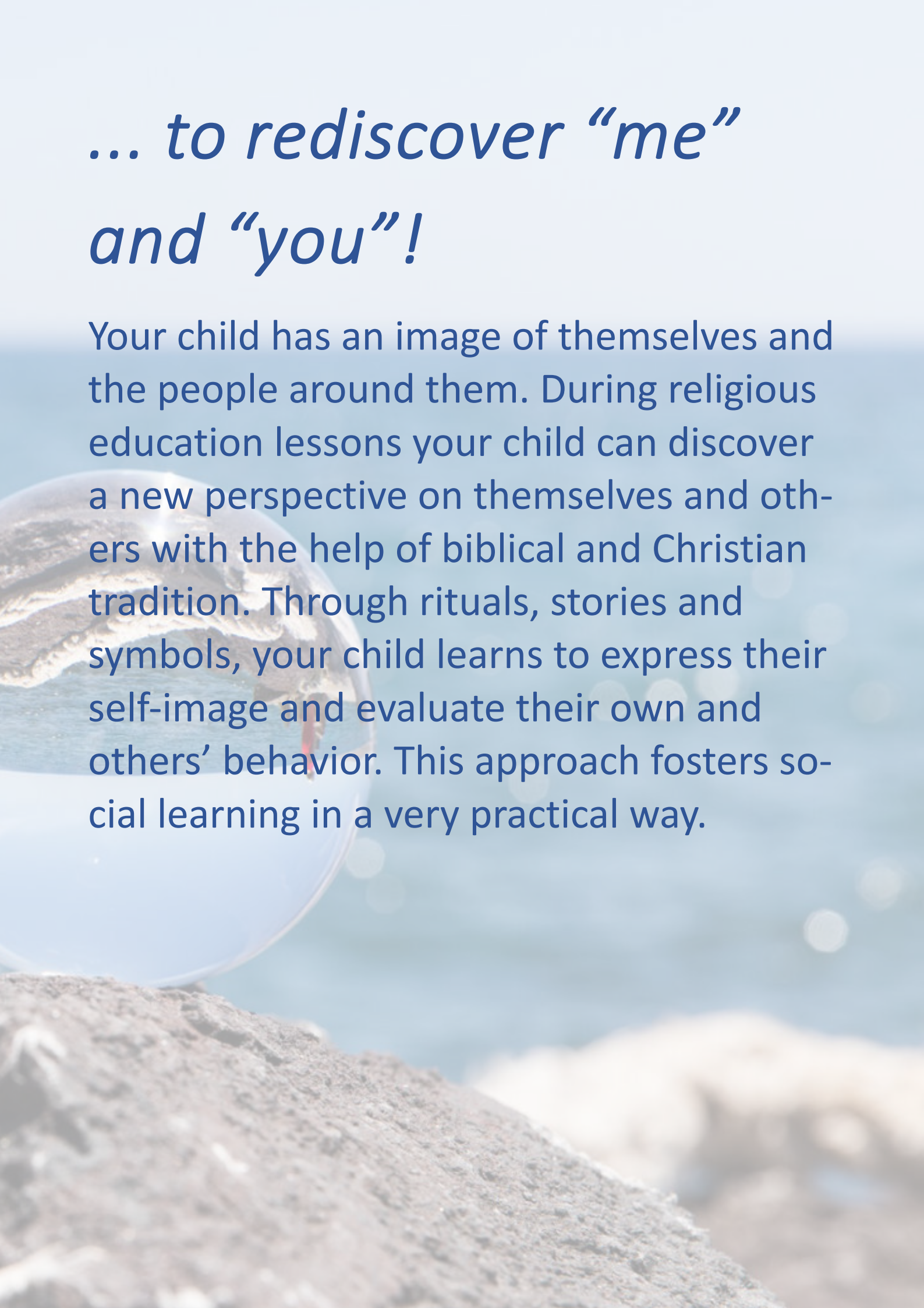


... for guidance on the path of life!

Children have their own understanding of religion. Through festivals, religious education work in daycare centers or services and personal experience in the parishes, your children may have started forming their initial perspectives. Religious education builds on this foundation in a non-binding way. Perhaps you have a critical view of religious institutions, but still live by certain values. Here too, religious education can provide valuable support to your child in a meaningful way.

... to rediscover “me” and “you”!

Your child has an image of themselves and the people around them. During religious education lessons your child can discover a new perspective on themselves and others with the help of biblical and Christian tradition. Through rituals, stories and symbols, your child learns to express their self-image and evaluate their own and others' behavior. This approach fosters social learning in a very practical way.





... to try out religious practice!

Rituals create community and give stability. Singing with and without movements, engaging in common rituals, reciting established prayers such as the Lord's Prayer, or planning a school service can all be part of religious education. Thinking and talking about religious practices is always encouraged. The focus of the lesson is never to assess or target a child's personal beliefs.

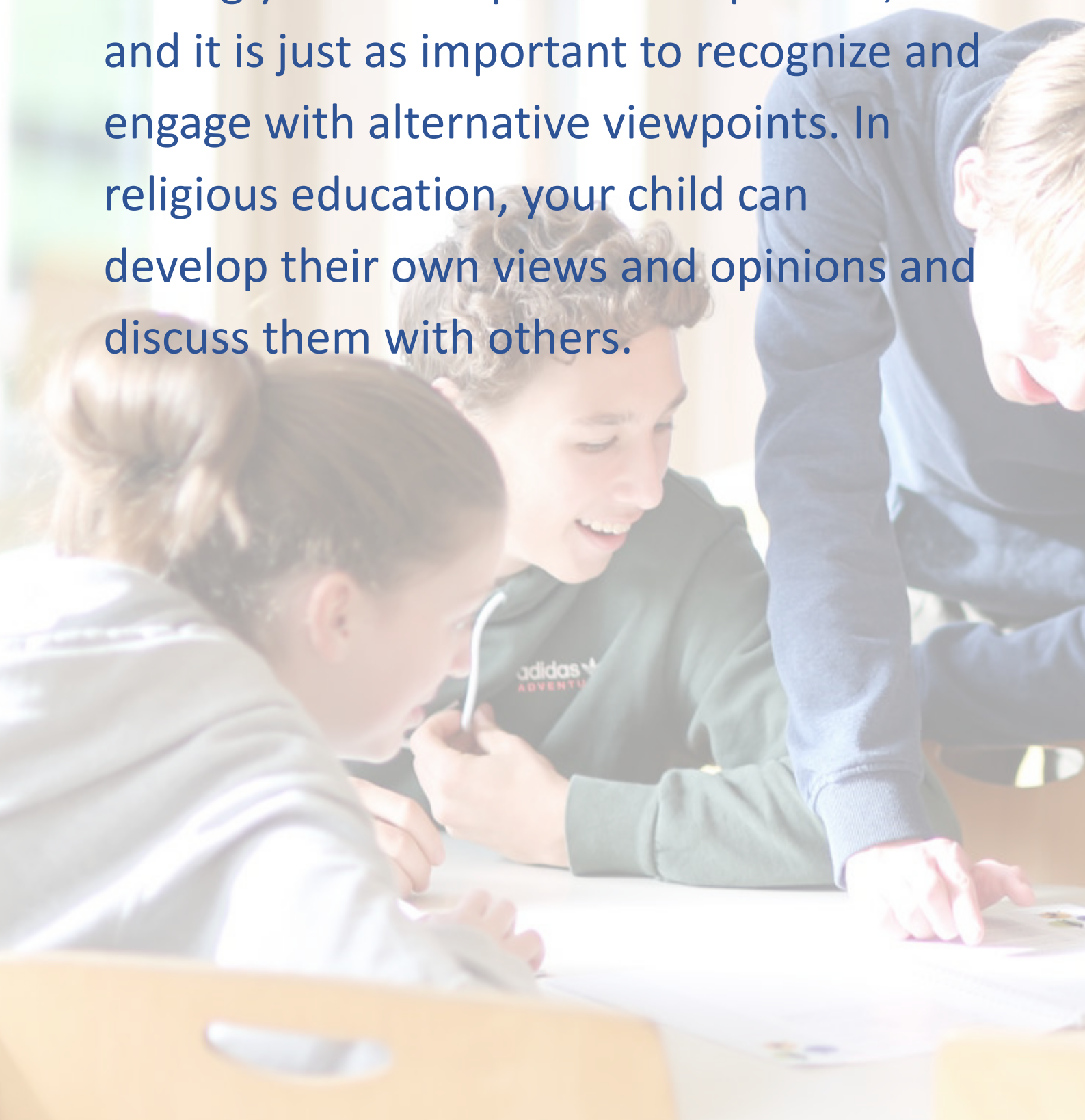
... to the Bible as a cultural asset!

Children are naturally drawn to stories because they present content in ways that are easy to understand. It's no wonder that most religions convey their central themes through stories. The Bible's treasure trove of stories inspires a variety of perspectives on one's own life.

Religious education introduces your child to life's big questions in a narrative, child-friendly and reflective way.

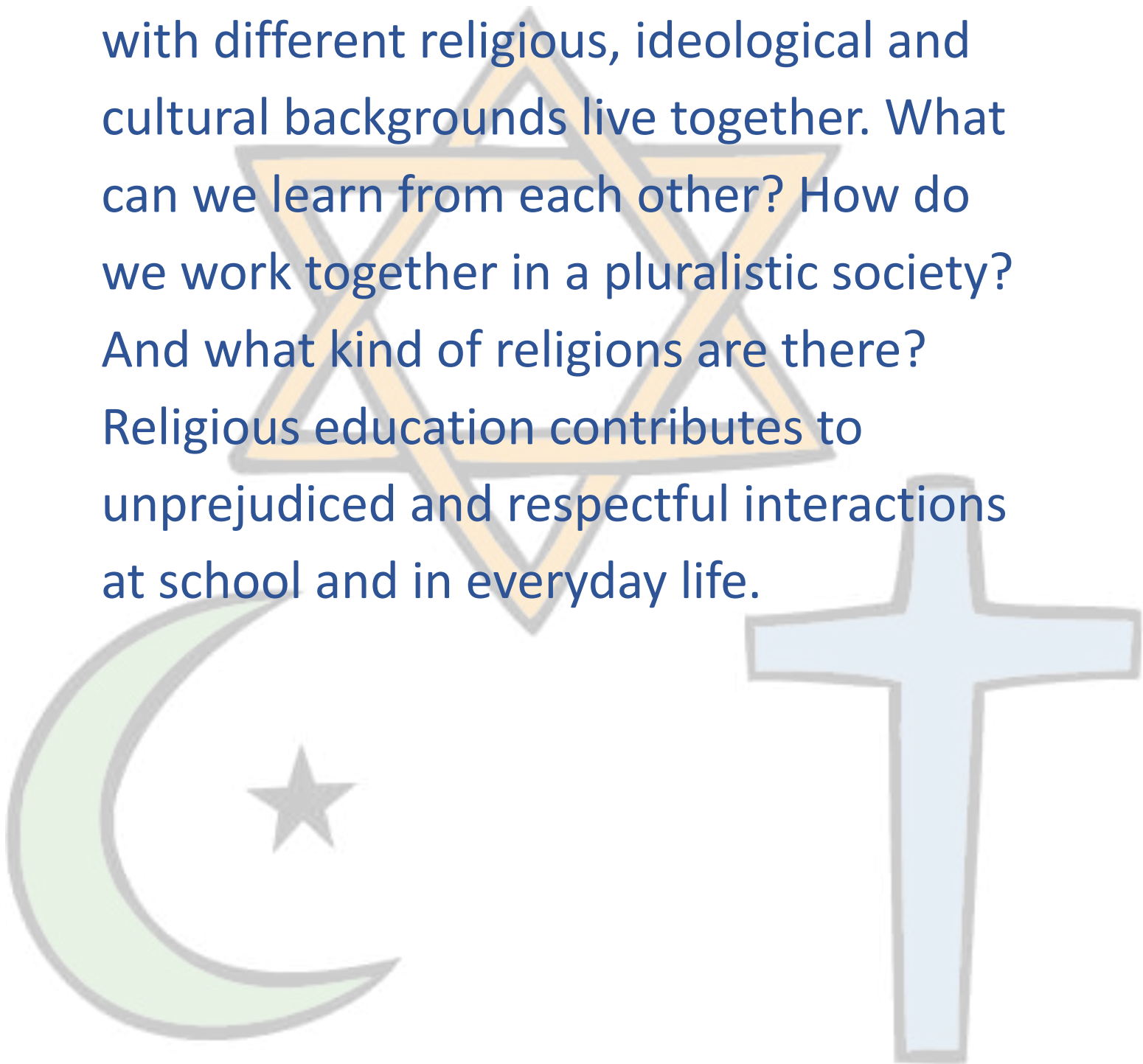
... to have a mind of one's own!

Having your own opinion is important, and it is just as important to recognize and engage with alternative viewpoints. In religious education, your child can develop their own views and opinions and discuss them with others.



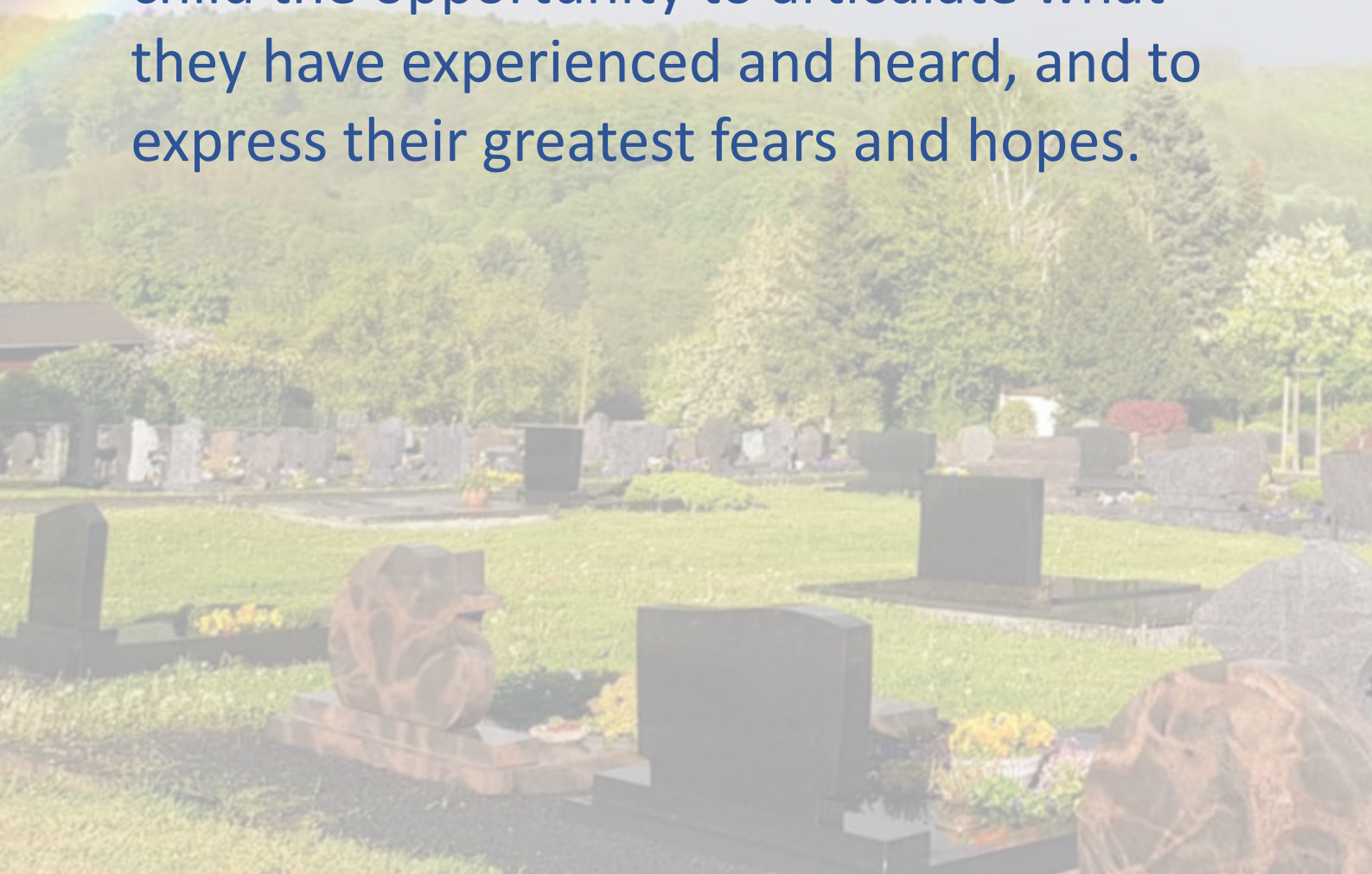
... for intercultural competence!

Our society is diverse - thank God! People with different religious, ideological and cultural backgrounds live together. What can we learn from each other? How do we work together in a pluralistic society? And what kind of religions are there? Religious education contributes to unprejudiced and respectful interactions at school and in everyday life.



... to the big questions of life!

What happens after death? Why is there suffering and injustice? What is the meaning of life? People always ask these questions everywhere and at any time. In religious education your child learns to ask these questions themselves and find answers. The stories of the Bible give your child the opportunity to articulate what they have experienced and heard, and to express their greatest fears and hopes.



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