

Religious Education

All children – regardless of gender, starting point or background – will have the opportunity to engage with a high-quality religious education. They will be equipped with the knowledge, skills and vocabulary to learn through a diocese linked curriculum that provides opportunities to reflect, discuss and explore more about the world in which they live in. The curriculum provides children with the knowledge of different religious traditions, celebrations, stories and values. Our RE curriculum pupils develop an understanding of themselves and others as well as respecting differences. Lessons will promote the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of individuals and communities. We intend to inspire a sense of enjoyment and curiosity about different world religions.

Sikhism



How do Sikhs worship?

Spring 1

Key Vocabulary:

- Diwan, procession, congregation, chakkar, kirpans, langar

New Knowledge:

A Gurdwara is important to Sikhs, because as well as being the place where they come together for congregational worship it also helps the Sikh community by holding libraries of Sikh literature, schools to develop understanding of the belief for children and charitable work for the community and beyond.

A Gurdwara is also a place to celebrate rites of passage including birth, marriage and funeral services. This is to do them in front of God and the Guru as it shows respect to all.

The Khanda is the symbol of Sikhism and can often be seen on the ochre or saffron coloured flags at a Gurdwara called the Nishan Sahib.

The symbol or emblem of Sikhism is known as the Khanda. It is made up of

The Khanda - a double edged sword. This represents the belief in one God.

The Chakkar, like the Kara it is a circle representing God without beginning or end and reminding Sikhs to remain within the rule of God.

Two crossed kirpans (swords) representing spiritual authority and political power.

Worship in the Gurdwara takes place in a hall called Diwan, meaning 'court of a ruler'.

Sikhs who worship in a gurdwara believe that they have an opportunity to become closer to God in the Sikh congregation. This congregation is called the Sangat.

Each morning the Guru Granth Sahib is carried in procession into the diwan and placed on a takht, a raised platform with a canopy over it to show that is the ruler of the Sikhs.

The Guru Granth Sahib is covered with beautiful cloths called rumalas. An attendant waves a decorative fan, called a chauri, over it to purify the area before reading the scripture. Sikhs remove their shoes, cover their heads and bow before the Guru Granth Sahib when they enter the room.

Men and women are considered equal. Everyone sits on the floor to worship, with the men on one side and women on the other.

Services are informal and may last a long time, so people come in and out as they wish.

Sikhs make an offering of money or food for the Gurdwara's kitchen, which is known as the langar.

In Sikhism, the practice of the Langar, or free kitchen, is believed to have been started by the first Sikh Guru, Guru Nanak. It was designed to uphold the principle of equality among all people, regardless of religion, caste, colour, creed, age, gender or social status.

All Gurdwaras are different, but they share some features such as having 4 entrance doors, a diwan hall, the sach khand (the room where the Guru Granth Sahib is placed overnight)