



Valuing respect, friendship, excellence and care in all that we do and say.

The education which the Church promotes looks to the integral development of the human person. Its purpose is to cultivate the intellect and develop the capacity for right judgement, to help young people to assimilate their cultural heritage and form a sense of moral and ethical readiness for their future professional, civic, family and national responsibilities'.

Pope John Paul II

Although we are a Catholic school, we believe it is very important that pupils learn to respect the faiths and beliefs which others hold. Therefore, children are given the opportunity to learn about other cultures and faiths throughout their time at St Joseph's.

The Church calls us to be committed to respecting people from other religions and to recognise that God is at work within them, our brothers and sisters. Pupils are encouraged not merely to learn facts about other religions but to also reflect upon them and gain insight from them. Children are taught to be respectful and understanding of people and traditions from other faith backgrounds.

Each term there is a multifaith week when the children focus on different elements of the faith, they are studying e.g. key beliefs, holy books, places of worship, holy days and festivals. The teaching about other religions is important because:

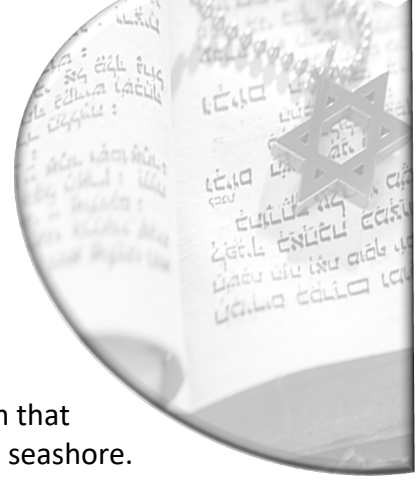
- Learning about other religions and cultures is one of the ways in which we fulfil our call to love our neighbour. As the Church says, 'The love for all men and women is necessarily also a love for their culture. Catholic schools are, by their very vocation, intercultural' (Congregation for Catholic Education)
- The Church states that schools 'try to understand better the religion of one's neighbours, and to experience something of their religious life and culture' (Catholic Bishops' Conference)
- It prepares our children for life in modern Britain, giving them an understanding of the beliefs of others.



Overview: Learning about Judaism

AGE	THEME	FOCUS	CONNECT	DISCOVER	RESPECT
Nursery/Reception	Special days	Hanukkah	There are special days	The story of the oil lamp in the Temple	God cares for His people
Year 1 and Year 2	Stories	Abraham and Moses	We all have stories	Abraham and Moses as faith leaders	How God lead the Jewish people
	Prayer/home	Shabbat	Families gather	Shabbat	Shabbat the day for God, the day of rest
Year 3 and Year 4	Places of worship	The Synagogue	There are special places	The Synagogue	The importance of the synagogue
	Holy Books	The Torah	Books are important	The Torah	The importance of the Torah
Year 5 and Year 6	Beliefs ad festivals	Pesach	There are times for remembering	Pesach	God cares for His people
	Belonging and values	Yom Kipper	Making a new start	Yom Kipper	The value of atonement

My Learning: *Judaism*



Year One and Year Two

We learn about the figures of Abraham and Moses:

Key Vocabulary: Abraham, Moses, leader, Pharaoh, slavery

Abraham is considered the father of the Jewish people. God promised Abraham that his descendants would be as many as the stars in the heaven or the sand or the seashore. He helped people understand that there was only one God.

Moses was a descendant of Abraham. God chose Moses to be a leader of the Jewish people. Moses led the Jewish people out of Egypt, where the Pharaoh had treated them harshly as slaves. He led them to their own promised land.

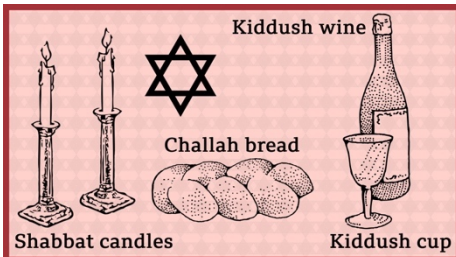


SCAN ME

We learn about Shabbat, the day of rest:

Key Vocabulary: creation, Shabbat, Sabbath, sunset, kiddush, challah

In the Creation story, God created the heavens and earth, plants, animals and people over six days. On the seventh day, He rested.



Shabbat begins each week, on Friday at sunset and lasts until Saturday at sunset.

The Shabbat meal takes place on Friday evening for Jewish people. The family come together and share a special meal together without any distractions. It is a very special family social time and links back to the Ten commandments: Keep the Sabbath day holy.

Year Three and Year Four

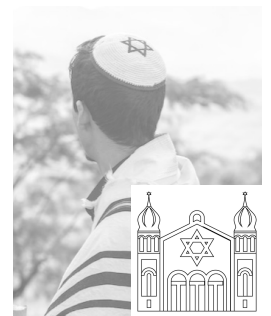
We learn about the Jewish place of worship: The Synagogue

Key Vocabulary: worship, synagogue, shul, kippah, tallit, shawl

The **synagogue** is a special building where the Jewish people meet to pray, study and celebrate. If possible, synagogues are built facing the direction of where the Temple was in Jerusalem. The synagogue is often called the **shul** which is the Yiddish word for 'school'.

The outside is decorated with a six-sided star (**The Star of David**). There are no statues because the Jewish people believe that would go against the second of the ten commandments: *You shalt not worship idols*.

When boys and men go into the synagogue, they must cover their heads. The little round cap they wear is called a **kippah**. Men also often wear a **tallit**, which is a prayer shawl over their shoulders. These are worn as a sign of respect and a reminder that God is present in the synagogue.



We learn about the Torah, a very special book for the Jewish people.

Key Vocabulary: Tanakh, Torah, Hebrew



The Tanakh is the Hebrew Bible containing 39 books. It has three parts, **the Torah**, the Prophets and the Writings. The Torah is a collection of laws, commandments, rules and stories (what Christians call the Old Testament). The Torah, which is written by hand and in Hebrew, is very special for the Jewish people and they consider it to be the greatest gift God has given them.

The Torah is believed to be the word of God. All Jewish people use the Torah to help guide their lives.

We learn about the Jewish festival of Passover (Pesach).



SCAN ME

Key Vocabulary: Passover, Pesach, seder, kosher, Exodus, matzah, charoset

Pesach (the Jewish word for Passover) is the festival where Jewish people come together to remember the story of how God delivered them from slavery in Egypt, how God takes care of them still today and how there is still the need for freedom in some places of the world. It is a spring festival that begins on the 15th day of Nisan, the first month of the Jewish calendar.

Jewish people believe that through the story of Exodus, we are told of how God passed over his people so that no disasters could happen to them and lead them to freedom. Passover is celebrated with a series of rituals, each symbolising a different part of the story of Exodus.



The evening before the Passover starts, Jews have a special service called a Seder (order).

The Seder plate contains a number of food items with special symbolic significance.

On the table are also three matzah (flat bread).

We learn about the Jewish special holiday, Yom Kippur.

Key Vocabulary: Rosh Hashanah, Teshuvah, forgiveness, repentance, Yom Kippur

Rosh Hashanah (beginning of the year) marks the beginning of the new year of the Jewish calendar. It takes place in September/October and lasts for ten days. It ends with the celebration of **Yom Kippur** (the day of atonement). Yom Kippur is the holiest day of the Jewish year. It is a day when no work is allowed.

For Jewish people, Rosh Hashanah is a time to look back over the past year. They say sorry for any wrongdoing '**Teshuvah**' which means returning to God. This day of atonement marks the end of the Jewish high holy days and offers a chance for people to pray and ask for repentance.

We live in a world that is struggling for peace and is often at odds over varying belief systems and values. A study of religions helps you to understand how those major belief systems are represented in different religious traditions.

Other curricular links: World War ???

Respecting the Jewish faith:

- **Shabbat is the day for God, the day of rest.**
- **The synagogue is an important place of worship for the Jewish people.**
- **The Torah is believed to be the word of God. All Jewish people use the Torah to help guide their lives.**
- **Passover (Pesach) marks the events where God watched over his people and through Moses led his people away from slavery.**
- **Yom Kippur is the Jewish day of atonement, where they ask God for forgiveness and return to God.**

Overview: Learning about Islam

AGE	THEME	FOCUS	CONNECT	DISCOVER	RESPECT
Nursery/Reception	Special days	Prayer mats	Special objects	Prayer mats and the Qur'an	What is special for Muslims
Year 1 and Year 2	Stories	Muhammad	Special stories	Muhammad	Muhammad is important for Muslim people
	Prayer/home	Prayer at home	Quiet times	Prayer five times a day	Prayer is important for Muslims
Year 3 and Year 4	Places of worship	The mosque	Special buildings	Friday is a day of special prayer. Call to prayer.	How Muslim people worship
	Holy Books	The Qur'an	Important books	The Qur'an. 99 beautiful names of God.	Th importance of the Qur'an for Muslims.
Year 5 and Year 6	Beliefs ad festivals	Ramadan and Pilgrimage	Special times	Shahadah Ramadan, Id-ul-Fitr, Id-ul-Adha Hajj	Respect for the special occasions for Muslim people
	Belonging and values	Guidance for Muslims	Guidance in life	The 5 pillars Zakat	What is important for Muslims.

My Learning: *Islam*



SCAN ME

We learn about Muhammad, a special person for Muslims:

Key Vocabulary: Muhammad, Ka'bah, Qur'an, Allah, prophet.

The special person for Muslims is **Muhammad**. He was a religious man and used to prayer for many hours. One day, when he was out alone in the mountains praying, an angel spoke to him and told him about Allah, the one God. Mohammad told many people that there was only one God, **Allah** and that people should be kind to one another. He told people how Allah wanted them to live. This message was later written down in the holy book called the **Qur'an**.

Muslims respect Muhammad as a special person and the last prophet of Allah.

We learn about how Muslims pray at home:

Key Vocabulary: prayer, Allah, wudu

Muslims learn to pray at home with their family. Prayer and family are very important to Muslims. They pray five times every day: early morning, midday, afternoon, after sunset and at nightfall. Muslims can pray anywhere that is clean and quiet.

Before prayer: Muslims take their shoes off, cover their heads, wash (wudu) and roll out their pray mats.

During prayer: There are nine movements in their prayer including standing, kneeling and bowing low, and touching the ground with their foreheads. This is to show that they are respectful to Allah. There is a set pattern to prayer, which includes a special praise and thanks to Allah, asking for forgiveness.



We learn about the Muslim place of worship: The Mosque

Key Vocabulary: Mosque, minaret, muezzin, mu'adhin

The imam is the leader of the mosque.



Newcastle

A Muslim place of worship is called a **Mosque**, which means a place to bow down. For Muslims the mosque is a very special place where they go to pray, meet people and study.



Stockton

Mosques usually have a tall tower called a **minaret**, from where people are called to worship five times a day. The man who makes this call is called a mu'adhin or muezzin. Larger mosques have a dome which represents the arch of heavens above the earth. Mosques often have beautiful mosaic decoration.

We learn about the Qur'an, a very special book for the Muslim people.

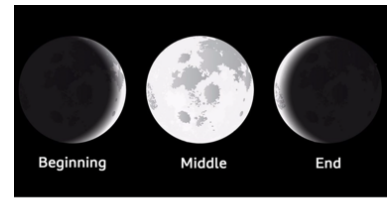
Key Vocabulary: Qur'an, Muhammad

The **Qur'an** is the Muslims' most holy book. Muslims believe that it contains the actual words of Allah which were spoken to **Muhammad** by the angel. Muhammad told some of his followers the messages and they wrote it down in Arabic.

The words of the Qur'an remain unchanged since the time of Mohammad. In it, Allah tells Muslims how they should worship him and how they should behave towards each other. Muslims believe the Qur'an to be sacred and it is always handled with the greatest respect and honour.



We learn about the Ramadan and the Hajj



Ramadan starts when the new Moon first appears in the night sky. Full moon marks the middle of Ramadan. As the moon wanes to the other side, Ramadan finishes.

Key Vocabulary: **Ramadan, fasting, Eid-ul-Fitr, pilgrimage, Hajj, Mecca**



The ninth month in the Muslim calendar, is called **Ramadan**. It is the month when Allah first gave his message to Mohammad. Muslims observe Ramadan by **fasting** for the whole month (unless you are very old, very young or unwell.)



Fasting during Ramadan, means that Muslims do not eat or drink during daylight hours. Muslims also try and do more good deeds and pray more during this time.

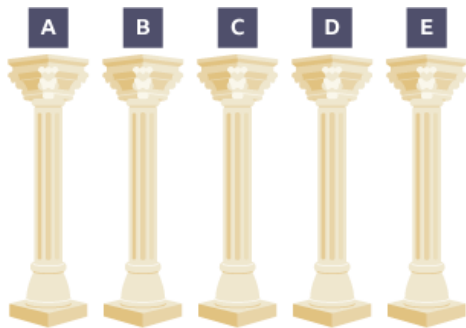
The Islamic calendar is based on the moon. The first day after the month of Ramadan is called **Eid-ul-Fitr** which means ‘festival of fast breaking’ and it starts when there is a new moon. Eid lasts for 3 days and is a time of celebration for Muslims so that they can give thanks to Allah for giving Muslims the strength and self-control they needed to fast during Ramadan.

Two months after Ramadan, some Muslims will make a pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia, the holiest place for Muslims. This annual pilgrimage is known as the **Hajj**. Every Muslim is expected to make the pilgrimage at least once in their lifetime.



We learn about guidance given to Muslims, through the Five Pillars of Islam

Key Vocabulary: **Guidance, shahadah, salah, zakah, sawm, Hajj**



A	Shahadah - Declaration of faith
B	Salah - Prayer
C	Zakah - Charity
D	Sawm - Fasting
E	Hajj - Pilgrimage

Shahadah: the most important pillar which sums up what Muslims believe - ‘There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is his messenger’

Salah: the requirement for Muslims to pray five times a day.

Zakah: Muslims should give to the poor.

Sawm: During the month of Ramadan, Muslims should fast and go without eating and drinking during daylight hours.

Hajj: Once in a lifetime pilgrimage to the holy places in Mecca.

Respecting the Islamic faith:

- Muhammad is important to Muslim people and believed to be the last prophet of Allah.
- Muslim’s believe in one God, Allah.
- Prayer is very important to Muslims; they pray 5 times a day.
- The Qur’an is the special holy book for Muslims. It tells them how to behave and be kind to other people.
- Ramadan is a month of fasting that Muslims take part in as soon as they are old enough.
- Muslims go on pilgrimage to Mecca, their very holy place in Saudi Arabia.

Overview: Learning about Hinduism

AGE	THEME	FOCUS	CONNECT	DISCOVER	RESPECT
Nursery/Reception	Special days	Diwali	We all celebrate	Diwali	Diwali is important for Hindu people
Year 1 and Year 2	Stories	Krishna and Ganesh Raksha Bandan	Stories we enjoy	Krishna and Ganesh Raksha Bandan	Shared stories bring people together
	Prayer/home	Prayer at home: Puja	Quiet times	Puja	Prayer is part of Hindu life
Year 3 and Year 4	Places of worship	The Mandir	Special buildings	The Mandir	How Hindu people worship
	Holy Books	Vedas and Bhagavad-Gita	Special books	Vedas and Bhagavad-Gita	Sacred writings of people's lives
Year 5 and Year 6	Beliefs ad festivals	Brahman belief in on god pilgrimage	What is important	Hindu belief in one god pilgrimage	Respect for the beliefs of Hindus
	Belonging and values	Karma	Rules for life	Karma and Dharma	Hindus care for creation

My Learning: *Hinduism*



We learn about some popular Hindu gods and traditions:

Key Vocabulary: Krishna, Ganesh, Raksha, Bandhan Rakhi

Hindu people have lots of stories about people who are important to them. The story of how **Ganesh** got his head is one of them. Ganesh is a Hindu god and is known for his wisdom. He is the lord of success and destroyer of obstacles. His large ears show that he is ready to listen. The snake through his waist represents energy. Ganesh is a god of strength and protection.

Krishna is a very popular Hindu god. Hindu people have many stories about him. He is the god of love and kindness.

Today there is a popular Hindu festival called **Raksha Bandhan**. *Raksha* means protection and *Bandhan* is the verb to tie. Traditionally, sisters tie a special bracelet made of red and gold threads around their brothers' wrists – wishing them well and hoping they are protected from bad things.

We learn about how Hindus pray:

Key Vocabulary: Puja, arti, shrine, diva, Aum, mala

Hindu families have **shrines** (prayer spaces) in their homes dedicated to a god or gods. Hindu people worship a lot at home, rather than in a Temple. Their worship is called **puja**. Hindus pray with a selection of items kept on a puja tray. Shrines in the home may be a special room or a corner of a room. It has to be somewhere very clean, out of respect. They make a small altar, usually close to the floor, as Hindus sit on the floor when they pray. Shrines are decorated with colourful drapes.

The Hindu home is a very important family place where children learn to respect each other and the created world. Children are brought up to follow five daily duties: *pray, show respect and offer worship to the family god, show respect to the family elders, be welcoming to those in need, respect all living creatures.*



We learn about some popular Hindu gods and traditions:

Key Vocabulary: temple, mandir, murti, namaste

Most Hindu worship takes place at home, but there are times Hindus come together to worship as a community. The building they use is called a **mandir or temple**. There are no set days to go to the temple. It is considered by Hindus to be God's place on earth and contains sacred images of gods and goddesses (murtis). Hindus follow a set ritual on entering the temple including removing their shoes, washing their hands and ringing a bell to help shut out all other sounds and help the mind concentrate on worship.

We learn about the Hindu place of worship: The Mandir (Temple)

Key Vocabulary: Vedas, Sanskrit, Upanishads, Bhagavad-Gita

Hinduism is not about one sacred book but several scriptures. Hindus read and study them as part of their worship and the content of these books guide their lives. There are two types of holy books, one described as 'being heard' – These are books learnt by heart and later written down. They explain how to worship gods and give advice on life. Another group of holy books are those which have been remembered and told by professional story tellers. One of these writings is Bhagavad-Gita and is well known by Hindus. In it Krishna tells Arjun to do his duty without thinking about himself.

We learn about Brahman; the belief in one supreme Hindu Being:

Key Vocabulary: **Brahman, pilgrimage, Ganges**

The Hindu belief in one supreme Being is called **Brahman**. The concept of Brahman is the belief that Brahman is everywhere and there is part of Brahman in everyone. It is thought to be someone who takes many different visible forms, with all the gods and goddesses representing different aspects of Brahman. Brahman has three major qualities: Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva.

Hindus do not have to make a pilgrimage, but many do. A pilgrimage is a spiritual time, which may be a pilgrimage of thanks for something, devotion to a god or to repent and say sorry. Hindus might go to a temple or into the mountains and rivers. The river Ganges is the most popular place of pilgrimage. Those

We learn about the Hindu belief in karma:

Key Vocabulary: **reincarnation, karma, moksha, dharma**



Hindus believe in a cycle of life, death and rebirth called 'reincarnation'. They believe that when they die their soul is reborn into another kind of body and lives on. That body could be an animal or a human. This is decided by how they have lived their life. This is called **karma**; the word means action. Karma is the cause of their destiny. Hindus therefore aim to live in a way that will cause each of their lives (present and future) to be better than their life before.

Hindus try to be charitable and lead selfless lives so that one day they reach salvation and become one with brahman and completely free from material things. This is called **Moksha**.

Life is thought of as a journey. Hindus follow their chosen path to union with the divine, according to their **dharma (duty)** or chosen way of life. Hinduism teaches that everyone has a dharma, a religious duty, that they should follow depending on their age and situation. For example, parents have a dharma (duty) to care for their children, children have a dharma (duty) to respect their parents.

Hindus believe God to be in all living creatures and in all that exists. Hinduism emphasises that true happiness comes from inside a person and not from what they own.

Respecting the Hindu faith:

- **Hinduism is one of the oldest religions in the world and is deeply rooted in Indian culture.**
- **Hinduism includes worship of a number of different gods and goddesses.**
- **Prayer is very important to Hindus; they pray in their homes in dedicated spaces known as shrines.**
- **Hindus sometimes gather together in a temple to worship.**
- **Hindus believe God to be in all living creatures and in all that exists. Hinduism emphasises that true happiness comes from inside a person and not from what they own.**

Overview: Learning about Sikhism

AGE	THEME	FOCUS	CONNECT	DISCOVER	RESPECT
Nursery/Reception	Special days	Recognising Sikhs	Special clothing and sharing	Sikhs' dress and prasad, Diwali	Sikhs share with everyone
Year 1 and Year 2	Stories	Guru Nanak	Enjoy stories	Guru Nanak	Guru Nanak was a wise teacher
	Prayer/home	Sikh daily prayer	Our families	Sikh daily life	Family life and prayer is important to Sikhs
Year 3 and Year 4	Places of worship	Gurdwara, langar Amristsar	Welcoming people	The gurdwara	Special places of worship for Sikhs
	Holy Books	Guru Granth Sahib	Important books	Guru Granth Sahib and the Gurus	The gurus guide and teach the sikhs
Year 5 and Year 6	Beliefs ad festivals	Baisakhi, the Khalsa, Mool Mantra	Belonging to a group	The Khalsa. One God.	The Khalsa show the Sikh's commitment
	Belonging and values	Guidance for living, sewa	Service to others	Commitment to service, sewa.	Sikh's concern for others

My Learning: *Sikhism*



We learn about Guru Nanak and how he believed he was chosen by God:

Key Vocabulary: **Guru Nanak, Guru Angad**

Nanak started the Sikh religion. One day when he was thirty years old, Nanak believed that God showed him what he wanted him to do with his life. For 22 years he travelled through many countries, praising God and encouraging others to do so as well. He was a peaceful person, a good and kind leader as well as a wise teacher, because of that Nanak was called **Guru Nanak**.

He told people: *God has made everything and loves everyone. He doesn't see the differences we see between us, he sees us as equals and wants us to live peacefully with one another'*

Before Guru Nanak died he asked **Guru Angad** to replace him, he became the second Guru of the Sikh religion.

We learn about Sikh families:

Key Vocabulary: **kaur, Singh Gurmukhi**

Did you know? All girls have the name Kaur, meaning princess, added to their names and boys the name Singh, meaning lion.

Family life is very important for Sikhs. Often grandparents will live in the family home, with aunts and uncles living nearby. Politeness is considered very important in the Sikh home.

Sikh families always try to eat together. Children are expected to help serve and clear away. Sikhs use their hands for eating as that is their custom. Sikhs value education greatly and it is expected that children will work hard and train to do a useful job.

Prayer is important to Sikhs. They can pray anywhere there is a picture of a Guru. Sikhs pray three times a day as a family. There are three rules of Sikhism:

- Think about God often.
- Earn your living by honesty and hard work.
- Share whatever you can spare with those in need, treating everyone equally.

We learn about Sikh place of worship: The gurdwara

Key Vocabulary: **Gurdwara, khanda**



Sikhs welcome everyone to their place of worship, called a **gurdwara**. Outside the gurdwara is a yellow flag with a Sikh khanda symbol on it. The circle shows that God has no beginning or end, the two swords represent the Sikh fight for justice and truth. The khanda (two-edged sword) symbolises God's power.

Most Sikhs go to the gurdwara on a Sunday but there is no set day. It is beautifully decorated inside. Sikhs take off their shoes and women cover their heads inside as a sign of respect. Everyone sits on the floor as people used to listen to Guru Nanak. The service can last many hours. Afterwards a shared meal is eaten.

We learn about Sikh place of worship: The gurdwara

Key Vocabulary: **Guru Granth Sahib, Punjabi**

After the tenth Guru, it was decided that there would be no more human Gurus and the last Guru would be the scriptures. It was called **Guru Granth Sahib**. It is a collection of teachings and hymns of Guru Nanak and **five other Gurus**. To Sikhs, this is the living voice of the Gurus, so it is treated with great love, honour and respect. It is written in Punjabi language.

We learn about Sikh festivals and celebrations:

Key Vocabulary: Baisakhi, Khalsa, turban, kanga, banis

Baisakhi is the Sikh's celebrations, their harvest festival which takes place in April (in line with the harvest in India). There is music and dancing. The festival is considered the birthday of the tenth Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh, who founded the Khalsa (the Sikh brotherhood). People gather in gurdwaras on Baisakhi day, when a new Sikh flag is put in place and the flagpole washed.

Belonging to the Khalsa, includes wearing the five Ks:

- **Kesh**, uncut hair, Sikhs consider this to be the natural states and God is seen in nature. The **turban** keeps the hair clean and tidy and is a sign of being a Sikh that everyone can see.
- A small comb called a **kanga** is worn in the hair. It is a reminder that they should be clean and tidy in their lives and lead good lives.
- **Kara** is a steel or iron bracelet symbolising that God has no beginning or end.
- **Kirpan** is a small sword as a sign that they must never attack first but be able to defend themselves in the face of attack.
- **Kachera** are cotton undershorts which remind Sikhs of self-respect and dignity.

A Sikh who is a member of the Khalsa must:

- Worship only one God
- Say five prescribed hymns (**banis**) everyday.
- Learn the Punjabi language and read Guru Granth Sahib
- Wear and observe the symbols of the five Ks.
- Live a truthful life and treat all humans as equals.

We learn about Sikh guidelines for living:

Key Vocabulary: sewa, Nam japna, kirat karma, Vand chhakna, sewa

Most Sikhs try and follow three basic guidelines:

- **Nam japna:** Remembering God by praying to him and studying the Guru Granth Sahib and the lives of the Gurus
- **Kirat karma:** earning your living by being hardworking and honest.
- **Vand chhakna:** sharing with others who are in need and serving one another, which is 'sewa'

Sikhs rules on food mean that they do not eat meat which has been killed in a certain way that they consider cruel. They also do not have any unhealthy habits such as smoking, gambling and alcohol.

Service (sewa) is part of the life of a Sikh. They should be prepared to give up some of their time, talents or energy in the service of others. Sewa is an act of selflessness for the community, done with goodwill, for the benefits of others.

Sikhs have great respect for the dignity of all life, human and otherwise. Care for the environment is important to Sikhs.

Respecting the Sikh faith:

- **Sikhism is the fifth largest religion in the world, with the largest community of Sikhs outside of India living in Britain.**
- **Sikhs believe everyone should be treated equally, men and women, people of different religions etc.**
- **Sikhs have very strong moral values and tight family connections.**
- **Sikhs believe in one God and learn from teachers called Gurus. Today the Guru is in the form of scriptures.**