

**RE SCHEME OF WORK
KEY STAGE 2
Mid-term planning**

Year 5: Unit 1

Term: Autumn 1

Year:

Do Sikhs need the Guru Granth Sahib?

Key Concepts: Sacred text; Gurus

Learning Objective: to explore different ways of showing belief with special reference to Sikhism

Brief Background knowledge for teachers

The Sikh Holy book is called the Guru Granth Sahib, and is considered by most Sikhs to be the 11th Guru. It was first compiled by the 5th Guru and then added to by the 10th, after which time it has been copied so as to ensure that every copy has 1430 pages and the same words in the same places. It contains hymns of praise to God, written by the Gurus and some Hindu and Muslim teachers. The prayers are designed to be sung, and are arranged according to the melody in which they are to be sung, by theme and by author. Copies of the book are kept in the Gurdwara, as the book has to be treated in certain ways. It is placed ceremonially in a bed overnight and got up in the morning and placed under the canopy in the centre of the prayer room during the day, where it is kept under cover when not being read. Anyone may read from the book, as all people are viewed as equals. The Guru Granth Sahib is at the centre of most Sikh festivals, called Gurburbs, and particularly the Akhand Path festivals where the entire scripture is read over a 48-hour period. At a Sikh wedding, the couple bow before the book and between stanzas of the wedding hymn walk in a clockwise direction around the book on its canopy. At the naming ceremony for a child, the book is opened at random and the hymn on that page is read. The child's name is then chosen using the first letter or the first word of the hymn. Prayers from the Guru Granth Sahib are used daily in the Gurdwara and also in Sikh homes, though most Sikh families have a copy of the Dasam Granth (poetry written by Guru Gobind Singh and not included in the Guru Granth Sahib) or the sacred Nit nam (a prayer book) at home rather than the Guru Granth Sahib itself. The opening prayer of the Guru Granth Sahib is recited daily and is known as the Mool Mantra. It sets out the key Sikh belief in one God and describes his character as understood by those of Sikh faith.

Expected Learning

Pupils will know about the key teachings of the Guru Granth Sahib, especially the Mool Mantra and what Sikhs understand about God from that prayer; pupils will link the treatment of the book with the respect offered to the human gurus. They will evaluate the impact of the teachings of the Guru Granth Sahib on Sikh daily life and practice; They will know how the Sikh religion came into existence and consider the importance of Guru Nanak in the establishment of the faith

Developing

Pupils will know that the Sikh scripture is called the Guru Granth Sahib and know where and how it is kept and used; they will know that Sikhs revere 10 Gurus and some of the ways the book is used by Sikhs in their daily lives

Excelling

Pupils will understand how the concept of Guru is transferred to the sacred text and the impact this has on Sikh treatment of the book. They will understand the significance of there being no priests and teachings from Hinduism and Islam being included.

Engage:

- Last piece of paper in the world activity from the RE Today Publication: Reflections. (Give pupils a blank piece of paper and ask them to imagine that it is the last piece of paper in the world and they need to think of the best way to use it – what would they write. Precede this with a stilling activity.) What do the children think is the most important idea to communicate? Play Chinese whispers – what are the advantages of writing things down?
- What would the children expect to be written in a Sacred text? Is a Sacred text useful? In what ways? Discuss and establish what is meant by “sacred” and find examples of what is sacred.

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Enquire & Explore: (AT1)

- Find out what is contained in the Guru Granth Sahib and how it is used. Study the Mool Mantra and some of the other prayers. Establish that there are no stories in the Guru Granth Sahib, only prayers and hymns of praise that show people how they might live, in terms of meditation. It does not contain information about what to wear, but general truths. So is the way other Sikhs live more informative for a young Sikh than their Sacred text? Can Sikhs learn about how to live, behave etc. from the stories about the Gurus? Read several of the stories; especially about Guru Nanak, and then find out about the Khalsa. Does the Khalsa inform the way Sikhs live?
- Look also at the way the Guru Granth Sahib is treated – got up in the morning, kept covered, put to bed at night.
- Look also at the way the book is used in ceremonies – Naming, Arkhand Path, Baisakhi.

Evaluate: (AT2 Impersonal)

- Which seems to make a bigger difference to the way Sikhs live? Do we learn more from the prayers and hymns or the stories? Is experience and lifestyle more important to Sikhs than the Guru Granth Sahib?
- Compare what they have learned about the Guru Granth Sahib with the Bible and the Torah. What do the differences show us about the way the Sacred texts are used?

Reflect & Communicate: (AT2 Personal)

- Do you need a Sacred text? How would you use a Sacred text? Is it valuable to read a Sacred text? Would you read one? Why? How would it change you? Re-do the Last Piece of Paper in the world reflection. Have you changed your mind? If so what other changes do you need to decide to make?

Evaluation:

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|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What went well? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even better if: |
|---|---|

Some suggested resources:

- Copies of the Mool Mantra; there are sung versions available as sound files
- Online version of the Guru Granth Sahib - <http://www.gurbanifiles.org/translations/English%20Translation%20of%20Siri%20Guru%20Granth%20Sahib.pdf> or http://www.sikhs.org/english/eg_index.htm
- Videos of the worship using Ragis and other prayers
- Stories of Sikh leaders
- Stories and other information for children on www.sikhnet.org or www.sikhs.org
- RE Today Publications: Reflections

**RE SCHEME OF WORK
CLASS RECORD SHEET
Assessment opportunities & activities**

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Some pupils will have made more progress and be using a developing religious vocabulary to:

- Describe the Sikh concept of Guru
- Describe how the concept of Guru applies to Sikh life, both in terms of Gurus and Sacred text
- Suggest meanings for the way the Guru Granth Sahib is revered
- Raise and suggest answers to questions about the differences between the teachings of Gurus and the Guru Granth Sahib
- Raise and suggest answers to questions of how the values of Sacred texts apply to believers and non-believers

Most pupils will be able to use an increasing religious vocabulary to:

- Make links between the Guru Granth Sahib and Sikh beliefs
- Identify the impact of the Guru Granth Sahib on the lives of believers
- Describe ways in which the Guru Granth Sahib is treated with respect
- Identify what texts influence their own lives
- Ask important questions about their own and Sikh beliefs about Sacred texts
- Make links between values and commitments and their own attitudes and behaviour towards Sacred texts

Pupils who have not made as much progress will be able to use religious words and phrases to:

- Retell some Sikh stories
- Identify the importance of the Guru Granth Sahib for believers
- Identify and suggest meanings for the ceremony surrounding the Guru Granth Sahib
- Ask, and respond sensitively to, questions about their own and Sikh beliefs about Sacred texts
- Recognise that others may have differing views to their own about the way to handle Sacred texts