

Religious Education Knowledge Organiser

Year 4

Spring (i)

What is the Guru Granth Sahib?

Substantive Knowledge – The Guru Granth Sahib is the tenth and everlasting guru. It is a holy book and is read from at the beginning of every festival

The Significance of Worship to Sikhs

Sikhs believe that God is visible in the Sikh congregation or Sangat, and that God is pleased by the act of serving the Sangat together. Congregational Sikh worship (worship with other Sikhs) takes place in a Gurdwara.

The Origins of the Gurdwara

All members of the Sikh community are seen as equal. All individuals, regardless of gender, race, disability, class or wealth, should be treated with respect and dignity. Through their actions within the gurdwara and the local community, Sikhs show their belief in the oneness of humanity .

The first Gurdwara in the world was built by Guru Nanak in 1521-2 at Kartarpur. There are about 200 Gurdwaras in Britain. The literal meaning of the Punjabi word Gurdwara is 'the home of the Guru', or 'the door that leads to

Langar

This is a free kitchen where food is served to worshippers without charge



The Four Doors

There are four doors into the gurdwara to show that people from the north, east, south and west are welcome



**Plumstead
Gurdwara**

Guru Granth Sahib – the everlasting

Guru

Extracts are read **at every festival**. The Guru Granth Sahib is considered the Everlasting Guru.

Sikhs believe the word of God is contained in the **Guru Granth Sahib** therefore it is treated with the same respect as the Ten Gurus . **In the gurdwara , the Guru Granth Sahib is placed on a raised throne and Sikhs sit below it to symbolise their respect and obedience.**

The key messages of the Guru Granth Sahib are:

- Everyone in the world is equal.
- There should be equality between men and women.
- There is only one God of all religions.
- Sikhs should live and speak truthfully.
- Sikhs must avoid the **five vices**, which are **anger, greed, lust, pride and attachment to material possessions**.
- Sikhs should live according to God's **Hukam**. This means Sikhs should accept that the world is created because of God's will and that everything in the world happens because of **Waheguru**. This will lead to contentment.
- Sikhs should practise the **virtues**, which are **truth and truthful living, compassion and patience, love, humility and self-control, contentment, and wisdom and courage**.



The Guru Granth Sahib sits in a golden palanquin used to carry the scripture. This shows how much it is valued. Sikhs never turn their backs on the Guru Granth Sahib. A granthi is an appointed reader of the Guru Granth Sahib. When the Guru Granth Sahib is being read, a chauri, which is a special fan made from yak hair, is waved above it. The Guru Granth Sahib is placed in a separate room at night and put to bed.

The Guru Granth Sahib was completed in 1604 and is still used to this day.

Portable Knowledge – What we need to remember

The Guru Granth Sahib is the everlasting guru – the wisdom of the human gurus in scripture.

Core Vocabulary

sikh– a follower of the Sikh religion

Gurdwara– a Sikh place of worship

Guru Granth Sahib– The holy book and the everlasting guru