

Key end points for this unit on Sikhism are:

- Sikhism is a religion founded by Guru Nanak. Sikhs believe in one God.
- There were ten human gurus in Sikhism who developed the religion.
- The Sikh holy book is called the Guru Granth Sahib treated as a living guru.
- The tenth Guru (Guru Gobind Singh) formed the Khalsa - a formal community of all Sikhs.
- The Five Ks of Sikhism: Kesh (uncut hair), Kangha (wooden comb), Kachera (Underwear), Kara (steel bracelet) and Kirpan (sword).
- The Gurdwara a place for worship, but it is also a place for members of the Sikh community to meet.
- The name in Sikhism most widely used for God by Sikhs is Waheguru.
- Vaisakhi is a Sikh is a new year festival that takes place in spring.
- Gurpurbs are festivals that are associated with the lives of the Gurus.

This unit on Sikhism is designed to develop pupils' religious literacy by building on their prior knowledge of Hinduism and preparing them for future learning about Buddhism in Year 5. As part of the broader exploration of Dharmic traditions, this unit offers rich opportunities for comparison, critical thinking, and deep understanding of how beliefs shape identity, values, and practices.

The sequence begins with the origins of Sikhism, contextualising the faith's development in 15th-century Punjab and introducing Guru Nanak's message of equality, a concept pupils encountered in Hindu beliefs about social responsibility. This lays the foundation for understanding Sikh teachings as a response to injustice and religious division.

Pupils then explore the significance of the Khalsa and the Five Ks, gaining insight into the commitment, courage, and community that define Sikh identity. These symbols not only reinforce belonging but also express spiritual values, connecting outward practice with inner belief.

The unit then introduces pupils to the Guru Granth Sahib and the Gurdwara. By examining the importance of scripture and place of worship, children learn how Sikhs treat the Guru Granth Sahib as a living guide and create inclusive spaces of devotion, learning, and service. This links clearly to Hindu sacred texts and temples previously studied, while highlighting distinct beliefs such as monotheism and equality.

In exploring Sikh beliefs about God, pupils are introduced to the many names for Waheguru, the concept of Mukti, and the importance of living a Gurmukh (God-centred) life. These teachings echo Hindu ideas about karma and samsara, enabling meaningful dialogue about spiritual goals across religions.

Lesson Sequencing:

In the first lesson children will begin by exploring how Sikhism emerged in 15th-century Northern India, founded by Guru Nanak, a Hindu who taught a radical message of spiritual equality. This lesson provides vital historical and geographical context and introduces core beliefs such as oneness of God and the rejection of caste divisions. The idea of Langar, a free community kitchen, introduces Sikhism's focus on inclusion and justice.

In the second lesson, building on Guru Nanak's vision, pupils examine how Guru Gobind Singh formalised the Khalsa, establishing a community defined by commitment and courage. Learners explore the Five Ks (Kesh, Kangha, Kachera, Kara, Kirpan) as physical symbols of Sikh values and identity. This deepens understanding of belonging and how faith is lived in daily choices.

In the third lesson, pupils study the Guru Granth Sahib, Sikhism's sacred text and eternal Guru. They explore its content, purpose, and how Sikhs show reverence for it in the Gurdwara, a place of worship and community. This lesson helps children understand that learning and service go hand-in-hand, and draws comparisons with Hindu scripture and temple practices.

In lesson 4, children learn about the nature of God in Sikhism—formless, eternal, genderless, and known by many names, including Waheguru. Pupils link prior Hindu learning about dharma and reincarnation with Sikh beliefs in samsara, Mukti, and living a Gurmukh (God-centred) life. This develops theological vocabulary and encourages reflection on shared spiritual ideas across religions.

In lesson 5 pupils explore how Sikh beliefs are celebrated through key festivals like Vaisakhi, which marks the formation of the Khalsa and the harvest. They also learn about Gurburbs, which honour Guru Nanak and other Gurus through prayer, procession, and community meals. This lesson shows how values like kindness, community, and gratitude are brought to life.

In the final lesson, pupils reflect on key knowledge: Sikh history, symbols, scripture, beliefs, and celebrations. Through tasks such as diagrams, quizzes, or writing, children show what they've learned and how Sikhism fits within broader religious understanding. This is a chance to assess children's understanding.

Key concepts: Equality, community, devotion

Key vocabulary: Guru Granth Sahib, Khalsa, Waheguru, Langar, Mukti, Five Ks.