

What we already know (Year 7):

- Understanding of monotheistic religions (Judaism, Christianity, Islam).
- Knowledge of holy books and why they are important.
- Concepts of worship, community, and service.

Year 8/9 RE

Term 1 Cycle A - Sikhism

What's next (Year 10/11)?

- Comparative study of different world religions.
- Deeper understanding of religious authority (scripture and leaders).
- Exploration of religion in the modern world and moral decision-making.

RE Golden Concepts

Recognising symbols and their relation to religion

Understanding the fundamental features of religion

Knowledge of religious figures and stories

Interpreting how religion affects the lives of believers

Recognising similarities and differences between religions

Key Vocabulary

Sikh	Follower of Sikhism
Guru	Spiritual Teacher
Waheguru	Wonderful Lord (God)
Guru Granth Sahib	Sikh Holy book (eternal Guru)
Gurdwara	Sikh place of worship
Langar	Free community kitchen
Seva	Selfless Service
Khalsa	Community of initiated Sikhs
Five K's	Symbol of Sikh identity
Equality	All humans are equal before God

What I will know by the end of the unit:

Sikhism is a monotheistic religion founded in the 15th century in the Punjab region of India by Guru Nanak. Sikhs follow the teachings of ten human Gurus, which are now contained in their sacred scripture, the Guru Granth Sahib. Sikhism teaches equality, service, honesty, and devotion to God.

What do we know about Sikhism?

Founded in 15th-century India by Guru Nanak. Sikhs believe in One God (Waheguru). The Ten Gurus shaped Sikh values and community life. The Guru Granth Sahib is the eternal Guru. Worship takes place in the Gurdwara. Sikhs aim to live honestly, serve others, and remember God.

Why should Sikhs live by the guidance of a book written so long ago?

The Guru Granth Sahib is not just a book—it is the living Guru. Its teachings are timeless and universal, guiding Sikhs to live truthfully and compassionately. The scripture reminds Sikhs of equality, respect, and devotion. It helps Sikhs connect to God, community, and heritage in any era.

What can we learn from the teachings of the human Gurus?

The Ten Gurus taught that everyone is equal before God. Guru Nanak: Taught equality and rejected discrimination. Guru Amar Das: Introduced the Langar (free community kitchen). Guru Arjan: Compiled the Adi Granth (first version of the Sikh scriptures). Guru Gobind Singh: Created the Khalsa (community of committed Sikhs) and ended the line of human Gurus by passing authority to the Guru Granth Sahib.

Why is the Gurdwara important to the Sikh community?

It's the centre of Sikh life – worship, community, and service. Houses the Guru Granth Sahib. Provides the Langar (free meal) for all visitors. Teaches values of equality, hospitality, and charity. Offers a place for education, celebration, and helping others.

What are the Five K's in Sikhism?

The Five Ks are symbols worn by Khalsa Sikhs to show faith and discipline:

- 1. Kesh** – Uncut hair (respect for God's creation)
- 2. Kara** – Steel bracelet (symbol of restraint and unity)
- 3. Kanga** – Wooden comb (cleanliness and order)
- 4. Kachera** – Cotton shorts (modesty and self-control)
- 5. Kirpan** – Small sword (defending truth and the weak)

Where in the world is Sikhism followed?

Originated in Punjab, India. Around 25–30 million Sikhs worldwide. Most live in India (Punjab region). Large Sikh communities in the UK, Canada, USA, Malaysia, and Australia. Sikh diaspora communities maintain Gurdwaras and festivals across the world.

What are the important religious festivals in Sikhism?

Vaisakhi (April) – Celebrates the formation of the Khalsa in 1699. **Gurpurabs** – Celebrate the births and deaths of the Gurus, especially Guru Nanak and Guru Gobind Singh. **Diwali** (Bandi Chhor Divas) – Marks Guru Hargobind's release from prison and victory of light over darkness. **Hola Mohalla** – Festival of martial arts, courage, and community spirit.



