

# Islam

This term our RE focus is on Why is the Qur'an important to Muslims today? We will be exploring key aspects of the Qur'an and its teachings.

## Key facts

- People who practise the religion of Islam are called Muslims.
- There are about 1.6 billions Muslims in the world, living in many countries (mainly in the Middle East, north Africa and parts of Asia).
- Muslims believe that there is only one God, called Allah.
- Muslims believe that Allah sent many prophets to Earth to give his message. A prophet is someone who speaks for God on Earth. For Muslims, a man called Muhammad was the final prophet of Allah. He was responsible for starting the faith of Islam and is referred to as the Messenger of God or the Prophet.
- Muhammad was born in Makkah (also known as Mecca), which is now in modern-day Saudi Arabia, in A.D. 570. Muhammad is so highly regarded by Muslims that they say "Peace be upon him" (pbuh) whenever they say or write his name.
- The Qur'an, or Koran as it is sometimes known, is the holy book of Muslims.
- The Qur'an is written in Arabic and Muslims always try to read and recite it in this language.
- The mosque is the building where Muslims go to worship.
- Friday is the Muslim holy day, the time of the week when Muslims go to the mosque and pray.
- Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar; during Ramadan Muslims fast (consume no food or drink) from just before dawn until sunset.

## Key Vocabulary

Praying:	To address a prayer to God. To speak to God privately.
Mosque:	The <i>mosque</i> is the traditional Muslim place of worship. Architecturally, it often features a minaret, or onion-shaped dome, on top. Mosque stems from the Arabic word <i>masjid</i> , meaning "temple" or "place of worship".
Qur'an	The Islamic sacred book, believed to be the word of God as dictated to Muhammad by the archangel Gabriel and written down in Arabic.
Muhammed:	The Arab prophet who, according to Islam, was the last messenger of Allah. He is the founder of Islam.
Prophet:	A person regarded as an inspired teacher or proclaimer of the will of God.
Allah:	The Islamic god.
Muslims:	A follower of the religion of Islam.
Ramadan:	The ninth month of the Muslim year, during which strict fasting is observed from dawn to sunset.
Fasting:	Abstain from all or some kinds of food or drink, especially as a religious observance.

## Prior Learning

### Year 1:

> Christianity

What makes someone a Christian and what do they believe?

### Year 2:

> Christianity

What makes someone a Christian and what do they believe?

### Year 3:

> Christianity and Islam

What do different people believe about God?

## Following on:

### Year 4:

> Christianity and Islam

Why is the bible important to Christians today?

### Year 5:

> Christianity and Islam

Why do some people think that God exists?

### Year 6:

> Christianity and Islam

If god is everywhere, why go to a place of worship?

## The Qur'an

The Qur'an, sometimes spelled Koran, is the holy book of Islam. The Qur'an is considered by Muslims to be "The Word of Allah (God)". This book is different from other religious texts in that it is believed to be written directly by God, through the prophet Muhammad. It has been written and read only in Arabic for more than 1,400 years.



## Muslim festivals

**Eid-UI-Adha:** Eid-UI-Adha is the celebration of sacrifice and marks the end of Hajj, the annual pilgrimage to Mecca. It takes place on the 10th day of Dhul-Hijjah, the last month of the Islamic calendar.

**Dhu Al-Hijja:** The month of pilgrimage during which all Muslims, at least once in their life, should try to make the pilgrimage to Mecca.

**Ramadan:** Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, and a time when Muslims across the world will fast (do not eat) during the hours of daylight.

**Eid-ul-Fitr:** Eid ul-Fitr or Id-UI-Fitr is a Muslim holiday that marks the end of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of fasting.