

RE

Why do people pray?

Year 3

Summer 2

Key Knowledge

Prayer is a form of communicating with God. Many people pray to seek support, help or advice, to ask for forgiveness or when they want to give thanks for something.

Muslim pray five times every day. This is called Salah. When Muslims pray, they follow a certain sequence which is set out in the first Surah of the Qur'an. They clean themselves in a process called Wudu, they ensure they always face Makkah (or Mecca), they use set words and set body positions.

For many Christians, prayer is about building a relationship with God and communicating with him. Jesus first taught his disciples to pray and one famous prayer – the 'Lord's prayer' – outlines the key beliefs about who God is. Some Christians like to hold certain artefacts while they pray such as rosary beads or a cross.

Hindu prayer is known as Puja. They pray at a shrine containing objects that matter the most to them. Hindus have shrines at their Mandir and often also at home. They treat images of the Gods and Goddesses as special guests in their homes who are respected, cared for and offered food.

Key images



Enfield SACRE Statutory requirements

- A2 – Describe and understand links between stories and other aspects of the communities they are investigating, responding thoughtfully to a range of sources of wisdom and to beliefs and teachings that arise from them in different communities
- A3 – Explore and describe a range of beliefs, symbols and actions so that they can understand different ways of life and ways of expressing meaning.
- B2 – Understand the challenges of commitment to a community of faith or belief, suggesting why belonging to a community may be valuable, both in the diverse communities being studied and in their own lives.
- B3 – Observe and consider different dimensions of religion, so that they can explore and show understanding of similarities and differences within and between different religious and non-religious worldviews.

Prior learning

- Through EYFS and KS1, children will have learnt about different religions and the main beliefs within them. In year 3 they have learnt more about individual religions and the different beliefs people have about God.

Key vocabulary

Spelling	Definition
Prayer	Communicating with God
Communicating	Giving or receiving information
Salah	The five daily prayers to Allah
Wudu	This is the act of washing before salah (prayer).
Mecca/Makkah	The birth place of the Prophet Mohammad (pbuh). The direction that Muslims face to pray.
Submission	To give in to the power of another
Surah	Chapters of the Qur'an
Disciples	A follower
Artefact	An object made by humans
Shrine	A sacred place or object that is devoted to some holy person or god
Murti	image of a deity (a God or Goddess) used as a focus of worship
Puja tray	A special tray holding the items Hindus use during prayer.

Possible deeper thinking questions

Who do you talk to when you need advice?

Why are rituals important?

Why do people pray in different ways?

Possible experiences

Invite a parent in and observe their prayer ritual

Set up a shrine in the classroom