

RWV

What does it mean to be an Alevi in Britain today

Year 6

Spring 1

Key Knowledge

Alevi are the second largest belief community in Turkey. Within the Alevi faith, God is known as Hakk.

Alevi believe that a part of God is within every person, all living creatures and all of nature.

The Cemevi is the place for Alevi to come together and worship. This ceremony is called Cem. The Alevi believe Hakk (God) is in everyone and therefore everyone is equal. They all sit on the same level facing each other to show this.

The rituals, hymns, prayers and practices of the Cem ceremony express core Alevi beliefs about Hakk, humanity and the importance of belonging, being part of the community and serving others.

At the Cemevi, the teachings and beliefs are expressed through poetry, music and hymns with the saz.

At the Cemevi there are always 12 servants or volunteers, each with a duty to perform such as the door keeper, the jug server and the musician etc. As serving others is a main part of Alevism, these people take their role very seriously.

Alevi believe Ali is the most important figure, He was Prophet Muhammet (Muhammad)'s cousin. He believe in the importance of good knowledge.

The Twelve Imams are another part of another common Alevi belief. Each Imam represents a different aspect of the world.

Key images



Enfield SACRE Statutory requirements

- 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.
- B1 – Observe and understand varied examples of religious and non-religious worldviews so that they can explain, with reasons, their meanings and significance to individuals and communities
- 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.
- C3 – Discuss and apply their own and others' ideas about ethical questions, including ideas about what is right and wrong and what is just and fair, and express their own ideas clearly in response.

Prior learning

- Throughout EYFS, KS1 and KS2, children will have learnt about a range of different religions and customs within these religions.
- This will be their first experience of Alevism.

Key vocabulary

| Spelling | Definition |
|-------------|--|
| Hakk | The name of the God within Alevism. |
| Cemevi | The Alevi place of worship |
| Cem | The ceremony that takes place within a Cemevi. |
| Pirs | Elder – one of the 12 ranks of Imam. |
| Baglama/Saz | A stringed instrument used to express beliefs. Sometimes known as the holy book with strings |
| Ali | The most important figure in Alevism. |

Possible deeper thinking questions

What do you think are the most important values in the world?

Should everyone really be treated as equal?

Possible experiences

Visit a Cemevi

Invite Alevi guests in to speak about their religion