

Sikhism on the Web

Websites designed for use by non Sikhs

The **BBC site** is always worth visiting for outlines of the beliefs and practices of the main faiths in Britain.

www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/sikhism/ will give you basic material on holy days, worship, beliefs, customs and history. The special features section includes materials on weddings and festivals.

There's a useful set of photographs of Sikhs in Britain and, being the BBC, links to current stories about Sikhs in the news.



A glossary of common Sikh terms can be found at www.allre.org.uk/shells/strath_glossindex.html This is part of **Strathclyde University's** website and includes good line drawings and photographs of a variety of Sikh artefacts. A useful resource.

www.refuel.org.uk/curric/ks3_topics/holy_books/sikhism.php concise introduction to the Guru Granth Sahib

Sikh Websites with accessible information for teachers – including some materials which can be used with pupils

<http://www.sikhnet.com/> On this site the various articles about Sikhism (list left margin) could be useful – you do need to be able to recognise the technical terms though. Go into the section headed “Gurbani” and you will find music, videos and stories – I especially enjoyed listening to the “The Guru and the Pandit” which you can certainly use in class. Unfortunately the videos are not always of sufficiently good resolution to put up on a smartboard. There is also a collection of 12 short stories for children with linked colouring pages, which can be printed out – note that there are a further 10 stories for children under the heading “Sakhii”. And whatever you do, don't miss the collection of videos on different ways of tying a turban!

<http://www.sikhs.org/> Some very useful sections including “Origin and development”, “Philosophy and scriptures”, “way of life”. Note the scriptures section includes a full translation of the Guru Granth Sahib and the Japji hymn can be found at <http://www.sikhs.org/japji/jp1.htm> In the “way of life” look for the section on famous gurdwaras, which includes a link to a virtual tour of the Golden Temple. This is also the section for materials on Sikh festivals and symbols. The “Resources” section has downloadable audio Sikh prayers at www.sikhs.org/audio.htm, and there is a glossary of Sikh terms and lists of Sikh names. The “memories” section includes photographs of Sikhs going back as far as the 1860s.

<http://allaboutsikhs.com/home.php> another big site with extensive information on Sikhism. Look out here for the “Sikh Youth” section which has a large section of “stories” which are actually just a few lines of information with a piece of Sikh art – lots of interesting topics here. You can enjoy a slideshow of views of the Golden Temple, or visit the worldwide directory of gurdwaras which also includes quite a number of photographs, as well as places and contact details. Find some Sikh prayers, or dip into the” culture” section for recipes, games, and ornaments, as well as the expected materials on festivals and rites of passage etc.

<http://www.5knet.com/> is a site designed for Sikh young people. Check out the sections on Gurus, photographs of gurdwaras, the Sikh photo gallery, etc. You can also get a copy of the hukam (passage for the day from the Guru Granth Sahib) in English, and hear it chanted in gurmurki. The Sikh “wallpapers” are also worth a look.

<http://www.sikhism.com/> This site includes a daily selection of news items from the Sikh Times which will give you an up to date insight into what is interesting to Sikhs in Britain.. There are hymns (kirtans) you can listen to. Quite a lot of the site is still under construction.

<http://www.sikhvideos.org/by-titles.htm> This site has several Sikh videos on in full. As you would expect, the spoken materials are all in Punjabi (I presume) but these are clearly interspersed with Kirtans – so you can see and hear Sikh worship, and see Sikh art.

www.ikonkar.com/sikhism/gurus/gurus.htm An Australian Sikh site with all the basics you would expect in brief outline. You might find the “Sikhs today” section a helpful read for a global picture of Sikhism. This site has a strong emphasis on human rights issues.

Materials accessible by pupils

Hertfordshire LA has a static on-line tour of Watford Gurdwara with questions at www.thegrid.org.uk/learning/re/pupil/sikh/ - unfortunately it doesn't have the answers to the questions! You can tour Cardiff gurdwara at www.ngfl-cymru.org.uk/vtc/ngfl/re/m_parry_carmarthenshire/e_index_gurdwara_young.htm Virtual tour of the Golden Temple itself is at <http://www.sikhs.org/golden/>

An Oxfordshire school's website includes RE material on Sikhism at <http://atschool.eduweb.co.uk/carolrb/sikhism/sikhism1.html> a fairly broad brush approach with a reading level top of KS2

<http://www.ngfl.ac.uk/re/sikdha1.html> Bradford advisory service has a Sikh section of NGFL under development – not all buttons are active. However, you will find a pictorial walk through a gurdwara, and an article on Sikh marriage.

<http://www.sikhnet.com/HemkuntSahib/photos.htm> a gorgeous collection of photographs of Hemkunt – a modern Sikh gurdwara high in the Himalayas.

www.sikhs.org/wedding/ for a thorough explanation of a Sikh wedding with good photographs.

<http://www.sln.org.uk/storyboard/l6.htm> Sikh stories on Staffordshire Learning Net. They also have a few photographs at <http://www.sln.org.uk/re/Sikh%20images%201.htm>

A young Sikh talks about his faith at http://pof.reonline.org.uk/pupil_sikh.php

<http://www.sikhspirit.com/> accessible Sikh poems