

## The 5 Pillars of Islam

**Shahadah:** 'There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is the messenger of God'. The Shahadah is said when a Muslim converts. It is recited 3 times in front of a group of other Muslims, like taking a public oath. It can be said during difficult times. It is often said when dying. It is repeated in the 'Call to Prayer'.

**Zakah:** One of the most important principles in Islam is that everything even wealth belongs to Allah, so humans are just stewards who manage it for Him. All Muslims must give a set amount of money to charity: this is called Zakah. It is 2.5% of what money is left over at the end of the year after the family has been taken care of. This is an expression of kindness.

**Sawm:** Sawm is fasting. Muslims are required to fast during Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. During the 30 days of Ramadan all adult Muslims must give up the following things during the hours of daylight: food or drink of any sort; smoking, including passive smoking. Muslims do this to share the sufferings of the poor and to realise the values of charity and generosity.

**Hajj:** The Hajj is a pilgrimage to Mecca. The word Hajj means 'to take a journey with a purpose.' Here they will walk between the two hills, wear white to show everyone is equal, throw stones at pillars to represent resisting the devil, and will walk around the Kab'ah.

**Salat:** Prayer. Muslims can pray anywhere, anytime, but believe that it is a duty to set time aside 5 times every day to concentrate on Allah. They pray on a prayer mat facing Mecca and must wash before they pray. Men and women do not pray in the same place. Many Mosques have rooms for women but if not, the women may pray at home.

## Muhammad

Muhammad was born in Mecca which is now in the country of Saudi Arabia. He was raised by his kind and generous uncle who took him to many places in the world. On his travels, Muhammad could not understand how heartless people could be and how little faith in God people had.

The Angel Jibril appeared to him and told him that he had been chosen by Allah (God) to be the final messenger that He would ever send, telling people how to live. Although Muhammad tried to warn the people that they were not living how God wanted, they would not listen. He was often persecuted which eventually got so bad that he had to leave Mecca for Medina where people accepted his teaching. Here he became a great leader and even led his people in various battles against different tribes. He was a wise and kind ruler who laid down various rules about how people should live which is called Sharia law. After he died, all the messages that he had been given from Allah were collected and written down; this became the Qur'an.



## Year 7 Islam



## Islam and Peace- Not in my name

Islam preaches peace not violence.

A number of acts of terrorism have happened around the world claiming to be in the name of Islam:

9/11 - a total of 4 planes were kidnapped in the USA, 2 flown into the World Trade Centre (twin towers), 2,996 died, including people of all races and religions.

Malala Yousafzai defied the Taliban in Pakistan because she believed that girls be allowed to receive an education. She was shot in the head by a Taliban gunman in 2012 but survived and was flown to UK. In 2014, she became the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

Muslims condemn these attacks and say that Islam does not allow violence. Muhammed said that if you kill one person it is like you kill the whole of humanity. They also say that it is always wrong to kill Allah's creation.

## Terrorism

In last 50 years, there have been 5,218 terror attacks with 3,447 deaths. Until the year 2000 the vast majority of these were linked to the Irish Troubles. Recently, there has been an increase in far-right groups who threaten not just people because of their race and religion, but also those who are LGBT or don't agree with their politics.