

Enquiry Question: Does going to a Mosque give Muslims a sense of belonging?

In this enquiry, the children look at the Mosque and how it features in worship. They will consider the significance of the design and the important role it plays in the community

**History/Context:**

- Muslims believe they are all part of a worldwide community called the Ummah – this connects Muslims from all over the world.
- In non-Muslim majority countries Mosques are often converted buildings

Core Knowledge:

The Mosque is the Islamic place of worship and is the centre of the Muslim community. Going to the Mosque helps give a sense of belonging as Muslims gather there to give thanks to Allah. They wash before prayer with others and join their fellow Muslims praying on the floor of the prayer room as all are equal in the eyes of Allah.

Purpose built mosques are very recognisable from the outside with a:

- large domed roof covering the main prayer hall
- tower called a minaret from which the Call to Prayer is made.

Inside the Mosques there is usually a:

- Minbar (platform at the top of some stairs) for the Imam (prayer leader) to stand on when he gives his sermon.
- Mihrab, an indentation in the Qiblah wall. This wall signifies the direction of Makkah to which Muslims pray.

Impact on believer/daily life:

- Having access to a Mosque is important for Muslims as the building is used for many community activities. Muslims will try to be involved in the upkeep of the Mosques and donate money to ensure it is maintained.
- Friday early afternoon prayers are usually the main time Muslims will try to get to the Mosque for prayers.

Personal Connection:

- What places are special to me?
- How should people behave in holy buildings?
- Why is it important to be respectful in holy buildings?
- Why is it important for people to be treated equally?
- How could I show people that we are equal?

Key Vocabulary:

Mosque: Islamic place of worship

Ummah: Muslim community

Qiblah wall: faces Makkah

Minbar: stairs

Minaret: tower

Dome: semi-circular roof above the prayer hall

