

# Visiting a Mosque: RE Teachers Resources



## Teacher's Introduction



# Introduction

This resource pack produced by the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB) is part of the #VisitMyMosque initiative. It is intended to support and empower Religious Education (RE) Teachers in their teaching of Islam in new and innovative ways, in particular in the organising and delivery of school visits to Places of Worship such as mosques.

Additionally, during the COVID-19 pandemic, "in-person" visits to Places of Worship such as mosques were paused. As a result, signposting to "virtual" mosque tours has been included in this resource pack as an additional resource and to increase familiarity and confidence when organising in-person visits, in particular for RE Teachers organising these for the first time.

We hope these resources contribute to supporting RE teaching excellence and ultimately enhancing social cohesion and inter faith understanding in modern day Britain. The resources are primarily aimed at Secondary School level but can also be adapted for Primary School level.

## How can I access the resources?

These resources can be freely accessed at:

[www.visitmymosque.org/for-re-teachers](http://www.visitmymosque.org/for-re-teachers)

In addition to this Teacher Introduction (Resource 1), resources include:

### Resource 2: Guide to Organising a School Visit to a Mosque

- Key tips and checklist for planning and delivering an in-person visit for your pupils to a mosque.
- A number of suggested [template activity sheets can also be downloaded here \(PDF\)](#)

### Resource 3: List of Mosques Offering School Tours

- This web page lists a wide range of mosques across the UK that offer school tours.
- The list is non-exhaustive and if you know of any additional mosques that offer school visits that are not currently listed, get in touch at [visitmymosque@mcb.org.uk](mailto:visitmymosque@mcb.org.uk)

### Resource 4: Explore 360 Mosque Tours

- Interactive "360 degree" virtual mosque tours for six diverse mosques across Britain, including hot spots with additional information and photos of rooms, artefacts or points of interest.
- These are designed to assist pupils and teachers understand what to expect, before attending a real "in-person" visit to a mosque.

### Resource 5: Explore Recorded Mosque Tours

- Video tours of a further six mosques across Britain, recorded as part of the #VisitMyMosque virtual campaign in 2020 during the COVID19 pandemic, including more audio-visual interaction with tour guides.
- Some recorded tours are approximately one hour in duration, but time stamps are provided for specific themes or tour sections.



## Why visit Places of Worship?

The Commission on Religious Education (CoRE) (Religion and Worldviews: The Way Forward, September 2018) highlighted the importance of including lived experience in RE such as through visiting places of worship, stating "It is our view that learning about a worldview without reference to the lived experience of adherents, and where possible direct encounter with them is insufficient for effective learning in Religion and Worldviews."

In addition, a YouGov survey commissioned by the Muslim Council of Britain in 2018 found that 70% of Britons hadn't seen the inside of another faith's place of worship. This indicates that visits to a mosque will for many pupils be a first and unique experience both for themselves, as well as their parents who teachers will be asking to complete a consent form ahead of their child's visit.

## How to use these resources?

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These resources are for RE teachers to use and adapt accordingly to the needs and difficulty level deemed fit for the class they are using them for. These resources are not intended to serve as core materials to teach Islam and mosques in totality.

While these resources are primarily designed for secondary school pupils, teachers of primary school pupils may also use these resources but adapt accordingly to the age group.

Suggested activity sheets are provided, but by their nature they are generic. Some mosque hosts will have developed bespoke activity sheets and early engagement with mosque hosts can enable tailoring of these to match your pupil's learning objectives.

Whilst the pandemic has forced many of life's activities to 'go virtual' including learning about religion, virtual learning experiences by their nature fail to capture the full 'in person' experience. Thus, the 360 tour and recorded tour mosque resources are designed to enhance - not replace - in-person mosque visits. Links to several external resources are also provided on the following page.

Additional notes:

- Most of the Arabic words will be italicised e.g. *wudhu* (ablution) and *salaah* (prayers) and English words are provided in brackets for the translation.
- All links to external resources and websites are underlined and are click-able.

- Some of the links may be blocked or filtered when accessing from computers or tablets in your school. It is recommended for teachers to look through the linked pages in advance and identify if some of these resources are helpful for your lesson plans.

## Copyright

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This resource pack is copyrighted; however copyright does not extend to the linked resources, which are covered by the copyright of the organisations that have produced them. These resources are intended for schools to use and may be reproduced and adapted by teachers to enable pupils to learn about Islam and mosques in the UK.

If an individual, school, publisher or organisation wishes to reproduce all or part of this resource in any other context than described above, please email us at [visitmymosque@mcb.org.uk](mailto:visitmymosque@mcb.org.uk)

## Acknowledgements

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We would like thank a wide range of contributors who were involved in the development and review of these resources, including the National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE), The Inter Faith Network (IFN), RE Matters, Theos Think Tank, Association for RE Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants (AREIAC), MCB National Council members, Lancashire Council of Mosques, Islamic Society of Britain (ISB) and individual RE teachers and volunteers.

The MCB is also grateful to those who have provided funding for the completion of this resource work including Culham St. Gabriel's Trust and individual donors.



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## Contact Us

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If you have used this resource, we would love to hear your feedback and experiences. Please get in touch at [visitmymosque@mcb.org.uk](mailto:visitmymosque@mcb.org.uk)

## What is Visit My Mosque?

- #VisitMyMosque is a national initiative facilitated by the Muslim Council of Britain encouraging over 250 mosques across the UK to hold open days to welcome in their neighbours from all faiths and none and build bridges across communities.
- These typically take place annually and during the COVID19 pandemic, virtual tours took place. For more information, visit [www.visitmymosque.org/about/](http://www.visitmymosque.org/about/)

## Muslims in Britain: Key Facts

- Muslims form about 5% of the population (~3 million) in the UK. This makes the Muslim population in the UK larger than all other non-Christian faith groups combined.
- 47% of Muslims in Britain are born in the UK. In general, Muslim in Britain are highly ethnically diverse – 68% Asian and 32% non-Asian, including Arab, African and Afro-Caribbean, and many other ethnic backgrounds.
- Almost half (48%) of Muslims in Britain are aged 24 years old or younger, compared to 33% in the overall population.
- There are an estimated 1,800 mosques in Britain of all shapes and sizes.
- These include purpose-built buildings with capacity for thousands of worshippers, to small converted terraced house buildings catering for less than a hundred worshippers.
- Some of these statistics are extracted from the MCB's [British Muslims in Numbers report](#), based from the 2011 Census which teachers may find useful in contextualising the teaching of Islam in the UK.

## External Resources

- This is a non-exhaustive list of online resources on Islam RE Teachers can use, adapt or repurpose, whichever is deemed fit for their lessons.

### General resources

- [BBC Bitesize for KS1: Islam Class Clips](#)
- [BBC Bitesize for KS2: Islam Class Clips](#)
- [NATRE: Remote Teaching and Learning in RE \(PDF\)](#)
- [Primary Resources on Islam \(Website\)](#)
- [NATRE: Guidance and Code of Conduct for schools receiving visitors \(PDF\)](#)
- [NATRE: Checklist supporting schools planning educational visits \(PDF\)](#)
- [Cardiff University: Discovering Muslims in Britain: for Key Stage 3 \(Website\)](#)
- [Presentation on Islamic Art \(PPT Online\)](#)

### What is Islam? Who is Allah?

- [BBC: My Life, My Religion \(Videoclips\)](#)
- [BBC Bitesize for KS2: What is Islam? \(Resources and Videos\)](#)
- [Truetube: The Five Pillars of Islam \(Video\)](#)
- [Truetube: Charlie and Blue Ask about Allah and Creation \(Video and Lesson Plan\)](#)
- [Truetube: Belief Systems on Islam for Key Stage 3 \(Video\)](#)

### Prayer (Salaah)

- [RE Online: Why Do Muslims Stop And Pray?](#)
- [BBC Bitesize for KS1: Muslim Prayer \(Clip\)](#)
- [BBC My Life, My Religion: Prayer \(Clip\)](#)
- [Truetube: Muslim Prayer \(Clip\)](#)

### Quran

- [BBC Teach: The Qur'an \(Clip\)](#)
- [BSL Quran](#)

### Mosques

- [Video tour of Glasgow Central Mosque](#)
- [360 Tour: Suleymaniye Mosque, London](#)
- [360 Tour of Shah Jahan Mosque, Woking](#)
- [Discover Islam UK: What Happens In A Mosque? \(YouTube\)](#)
- [BBC Teach: The Mosque \(Clip and Resources\)](#)
- [BBC Teach: Inside the Mosque: What Do You Need To Know \(Resources\)](#)
- [Teaching Ideas: Islamic Place of Worship \(Activity Sheets\)](#)