

# Places of worship-Years 2

## National Curriculum links and rationale

To gain an overview of different places of worship and the features they include.

## School links and rationale

During this unit, the children will become experts in how other religions visit different places of worship and how they are special to them. They will learn about symbols and features found there.

## Key vocabulary

Temple  
Mosque  
Gurdwara  
Stained glass windows  
Pews  
Lectern  
Place of worship  
Incense  
Meditate  
Muslim  
Islam  
Guru  
Sikhism  
Buddha  
Buddhist

## **Mosque**

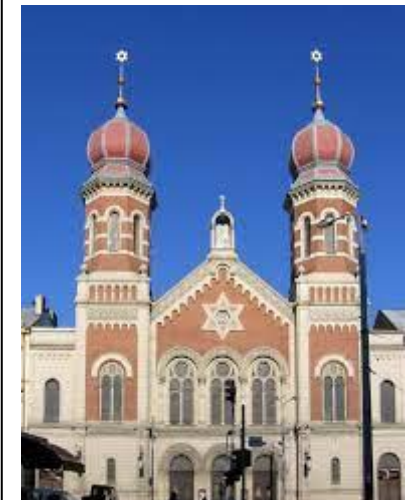
A mosque is a place of prayer for followers of the religion of **Islam**. Today many mosques are large buildings with beautiful towers and domes.

The inside of a mosque always includes an open space for worship. Rugs or mats may cover the floor. A nook in one wall, called a *mihrab*, shows the direction of Mecca, Islam's holiest city. To the right of the *mihrab* is a platform or small tower, called a *minbar*. Religious leaders climb steps up to the *minbar*, where they speak to the worshippers. Every mosque must also have a source of running water for washing. Muslims are required to wash before prayer. Outside most mosques is a tall tower, called a minaret. From the minaret a crier, or *muezzin*, calls Muslims to prayer. Some mosques have up to six minarets.



## **Synagogue**

A synagogue, also called a shul or a temple, is a place of worship for Jews and Samaritans. It has a place for prayer where Jews attend religious services or special ceremonies such as weddings, b'nai mitzvah, choir performances, and children's plays.



## **Church**

A church is central to the Christian faith, and it is where the community comes together to worship and praise God. The church is:

- the place of worship for all Christians
- where the community gathers
- where works of charity are carried out
- a place of healing

## **Our local church-**



## **Gurdwada**

The Sikh place of worship is called a Gurdwara which means 'Gateway to the Guru'. A Gurdwara is any building where the Guru Granth Sahib is kept. In the UK, Sikhs usually go to the Gurdwara on Sundays.

