

Mrs Taylor-Jones RE group in yr10 recently took a trip to a Sikh Gurdwara/Temple. Before going to the Temple we had spent a couple of weeks studying Sikhism. We had started to understand a little about the religion. We arrived in the morning and all had to cover our heads, take our shoes off and wash our hands before entering the Temple to show our respect to their holy book, Guru Granth Sahib. The worship took place in a big hall, where all the Sikhs had gathered. Inside the temple there are cloths on the floor, so therefore Sikhs sit down on it to show that they are lower than God to show their respect and that the God is always greater. During the worship a person is needed to read from the holy book they also had someone who was standing behind the reader and was fanning the holy book (Guru Granth Sahib) to protect it from any dust. At the end of each section everybody stands up and says prayers for the community and the world. During the time of prayer, each person that came, was given a sweet called Parshard, some fruit and we were also given a lolly pop.

The Sikhs are a very generous people, who care for others. It is expected that they would donate 10% of their wages to the Gurdwara and its upkeep. The Langar is the food that they eat after worshipping. Usually they eat spicy food such as curry, chapatti bread, and sweet tea. Everything is free, anyone can come and join including the homeless and the poor. This is also part of their belief – sharing with others. For Sikhs it is very important that they don't look down on other people – everyone is equal.



The Gurdwara in Smethwick is one of the biggest Temples outside India. Inside there are ten halls where the Sikhs can worship, most of them are used for worship, but some are used for weddings, ceremonies and sporting activities. In the halls, there were a lot of framed pictures of holy people that were on the walls to look at. The visit was very interesting as we have learned a lot from it, they made us very welcome. Thank you to Mr.Sukvinder Singh for welcoming us, showing us round the Gurdwara and sharing his faith with us. Thanks too, to Mr Ted Hooper, from the multi-faith, chaplaincy team at Blackenhust Prison, for organising the trip.