

## What matters most in Sikh life in Britain today?

Thank you very much for filling in the questionnaire below. It will make it possible for us to produce some interesting new learning ideas for RE lessons where non-Sikh people learn about the religion in ways that are up to date and real. Please answer in as much detail as possible, and share your own experiences if you are willing.

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**Your name:** Satej

**Age:** 10

**1 Please tell us the three most important things about being Sikh.**

Caring and sharing.

Working hard.

Remembering God.

**2 What is your earliest memory about being a Sikh child?**

My earliest memory of being a Sikh child is Naam Karan – that means ‘name ceremony’.

**3 Please say which two of the Sikh festivals and celebrations mean most to you, and why.**

Vaisakhi: Vaisakhi is important to me because the Khalsa was created.

Diwali: Diwali is important to me because our 6<sup>th</sup> Guru (teacher) was released from prison and released 52 princes.

**4 Is Vaisakhi important to you? Why or why not?**

Yes Vaisakhi is important to me because the Khalsa was created by our 10<sup>th</sup> Guru Guru Gobind Singh Ji.

**5 Choose one festival or celebration. Please tell us its name and what you do at that festival or celebration.**

I chose Vaisakhi because at Vaisakhi you go to the gurdwara and listen to *shabads* (hymns). The day before Vaisakhi we change the Nishan Sahib (the long flag outside the gurdwara). The day after Vaisakhi we have Nagar Kirtan where there is a crowd of people and listen to hymns.

**6 Choose one festival or celebration (it can be the same as the one you chose for question 5 if you like!). Please tell us its name and how the festival makes you feel. Why does it make you feel like this?**

I chose a festival called Guru Arjan Dev Ji's Martyrdom. It makes me feel bad for him because he sat on the hot iron plate.

- 7 Some people say you can be a Sikh without going to the gurdwara very much. Please tell us if you think that going to the gurdwara is important or not and what your gurdwara is like.**

You have to go to the gurdwara because you have to take the *Anand* (peace) in you. It is important to go to the gurdwara because you can do your prayers there.

- 8 What has Sikhism taught you about God? Describe what you believe.**

I believe that there is only one God who created the whole universe and we don't believe in hell and heaven.

- 9 The story of Nanak disappearing in the river can teach lots of important lessons. What do you learn from this story?**

I've learnt that there is one God in the whole universe.

- 10 Is there anything that is difficult about being Sikh in Britain today? How do you try to overcome any of these difficulties?**

There is a difficult about being a Sikh in Britain today. You will have to do your daily prayers. You will have to never lose touch with God.