

## 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:** Simrat

**Age:** 10

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

- 1 Remember God.
- 2 Treat everyone as equals.
- 3 God comes first.

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

Going far to pilgrimages.

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

Vaisakhi – birth of the Khalsa.

Guru Nanak's birthday – First Guru's (teacher's) birthday.

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

Yes because it is the birth of the Khalsa.

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

Vaisakhi – Nagar Kirtan (huge parade), holy book from one place of worship to another, free food, sing prayers, perform martial arts.

**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?**

Vaisakhi – happy because all my family meets.

**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.**

I believe both opinions because it is a place of worship, but on the other hand in the Sikh holy book it says you can pray anywhere.

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

There is one immortal God who is the great giver and is in every soul, so treat everyone equally.

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

I have learned to be strong and never give up.

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

Yes because people are scared of the swords. You can overcome them by saying the truth which is the sword is for protection.