

Falcons Primary School

Sikh Studies Curriculum Handbook 2026

Contents

1. Vision and Intent

2. Curriculum Principles

3. Curriculum Drivers

4. Golden Threads

5. Curriculum Structure

6. Progression in Enquiry and Thinking

7. Progression Framework

8. Sikh Assemblies

9. Appendix A – Vocabulary Progression

10. Appendix B – Enquiry Progression

11. Appendix C – Key Events Calendar

12. Appendix D – Places of Worship Programme

13. Appendix E – Assessment Exemplification

14. Appendix F – Recommended Resources

1. Vision and Intent

Our Vision

At Falcons Primary School, Sikh Studies lies at the heart of our curriculum and school identity. This enables pupils to understand Sikh beliefs, history, practices and traditions whilst reflecting upon their own values, character and contribution to society.

Through carefully sequenced learning, pupils develop:

- Knowledge of Sikh teachings
- Understanding of the Gurus
- Appreciation of Sikh history
- Respect for diversity
- Commitment to service
- Leadership qualities
- Social responsibility

Our curriculum reflects our school motto:

"To be the best you can be"

and is rooted in the Sikh principles of:

1. **Naam Japna:** Remembering and connecting with God
2. **Kirat Karo:** Working honestly and taking responsibility
3. **Vand Chhakna:** Sharing with others and serving the community

2. Curriculum Principles

The curriculum has been designed to:

- Build deep substantive knowledge.
- Develop disciplinary thinking.
- Encourage reflection.
- Promote moral and spiritual development.
- Ensure progression from EYFS to Year 6.
- Strengthen school and community links.
- Develop understanding of contemporary Sikh identity.

3. Curriculum Drivers

Curriculum Driver	Core Question
Faith	How do beliefs influence actions?
Identity	What does it mean to be Sikh?
Service	How can I make a difference?
Leadership	What makes a good leader?
Community	Why do people belong?
Courage	What can we learn from Sikh role models?
Justice	What is the right thing to do?

4. Golden Threads

The following themes run through every year group and strand.

Service (Seva)

- Langar
- Charity
- Community Action
- Helping Others

Leadership

Ten Gurus, Panj Pyare, Sikh Leaders, Modern Role Models

Equality

- Guru Nanak Dev Ji's teachings
- Langar
- Harmandir Sahib
- Human Rights

Community

Sangat, Gurdwara, Sikh Institutions, Global Sikh Communities

Reflection

Simran, Ardas. Nitnem, Gurbani

5. Curriculum Structure

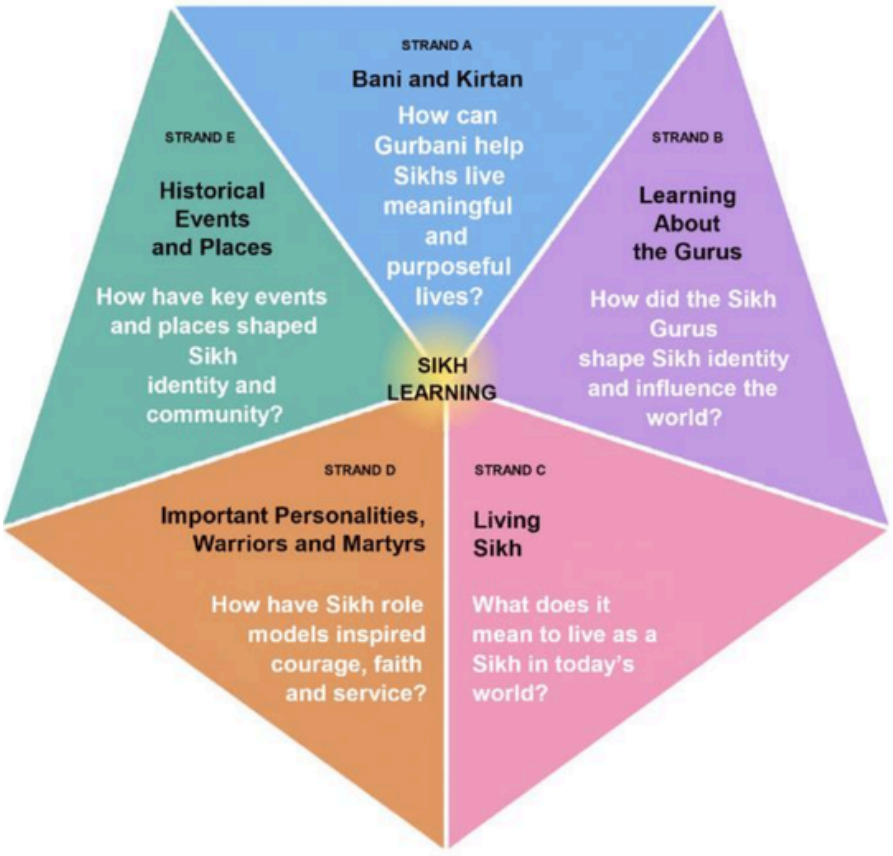
Strand A: Bani and Kirtan
How can Gurbani help Sikhs live meaningful and purposeful lives?

Strand B: Learning About the Gurus
How did the Sikh Gurus shape Sikh identity and influence the world?

Strand C: Living Sikh
What does it mean to live as a Sikh in today's world?

Strand D: Important Personalities, Warriors and Martyrs
How have Sikh role models inspired courage, faith and service?

Strand E: Historical Events and Places
How have key events and places shaped Sikh identity and community?



6. Progression in Enquiry and Thinking

Year Group	Children learn to	Sentence Stems
EYFS	Recognise Observe Notice Talk about	• I know... • I can see... • This reminds me of... • I notice...
Year 1/ 2	Describe Retell Explain Identify	• I can describe... • This is... • I remember that... • First..., then..., next... • I think this means... • I can identify... because... • This is important because...
Year 3/ 4	Explain Compare Connect Give reasons	• I can explain this by... • This happened because... • This is similar to... because... • This is different from... because... • This connects to... • One reason for this is... • I think this was important because...
Year 5/ 6	Analyse Interpret Evaluate Draw conclusions	• This suggests that... • The evidence shows... • A possible interpretation is... • This could mean that... • On the one hand..., however... • This was effective because... • My judgement is... because... • From this I can conclude that... • Overall, the most significant aspect is... because...

7. Curriculum Progression Framework

Reception

Big Idea: Who are Sikhs and what is important to them?

Strand	Enquiry Question	Sticky Knowledge	End Point
Bani and Kirtan	What is Simran?	Sikhs use Simran to remember Waheguru.	Explain why reflection is important.
Learning About the Gurus	Who was Guru Nanak Dev Ji?	Guru Nanak Dev Ji founded Sikhi.	Retell a simple Sakhi.
Living Sikhi	What does it mean to be Sikh?	Sikh symbols show belonging.	Identify key Sikh symbols.
Personalities	Who are the Ten Gurus?	Sikhs follow ten Gurus.	Recall some Gurus.
Historical Events	Why do Sikhs celebrate Vaisakhi?	Vaisakhi is an important celebration.	Discuss Vaisakhi confidently.

Year 1

Big Idea: What can we learn from Guru Nanak Dev Ji?

Strand	Enquiry Question	Sticky Knowledge	End Point
Bani and Kirtan	How does Simran make people feel?	Simran can bring peace and calm.	Explain benefits of reflection.
Learning About the Gurus	What messages did Guru Nanak Dev Ji teach?	Equality and honesty.	Explain one key teaching.
Living Sikhi	What does Ik Oankar teach Sikhs?	There is one God.	Explain the meaning of Ik Oankar.
Personalities	Why are the Panj Pyare remembered?	Courage and commitment.	Explain their importance.
Historical Events	How was the Khalsa created?	Guru Gobind Singh Ji founded the Khalsa.	Explain the role of the Panj Pyare.

Year 2

Big Idea: How should Sikhs treat others?

Strand	Enquiry Question	Sticky Knowledge	End Point
Bani and Kirtan	Why is prayer important to Sikhs?	Paath is central to worship.	Explain why Sikhs pray.
Learning About the Gurus	Why was Guru Angad Dev Ji chosen?	Humility and service are important.	Explain leadership qualities.
Living Sikhi	What does Kirat Karo mean?	Honest living and responsibility.	Give examples.
Personalities	Why did people of different faiths respect the Gurus?	Sikh teachings inspired many people.	Explain interfaith relationships.
Historical Events	Why is the Gurdwara important?	It is a centre of worship and community.	Explain Langar and Seva.

Year 3

Big Idea: How can faith shape community?

Strand	Enquiry Question	Sticky Knowledge	End Point
Bani and Kirtan	What does Waheguru mean?	Gurbani helps Sikhs connect with God.	Explain how prayer supports daily life.
Learning About the Gurus	How did Guru Ram Das Ji and Guru Arjan Dev Ji influence Sikhi?	They established key Sikh institutions.	Explain the importance of Amritsar.
Living Sikhi	What does Naam Japna look like in everyday life?	Prayer shapes behaviour.	Describe Sikh practice.
Personalities	What can we learn from Mai Bhago?	Courage can inspire change.	Explain why she remains important.
Historical Events	Which events changed Sikh history?	Sikh history developed through the Gurus.	Use a timeline accurately.

Year 4

Big Idea: How can Sikhs make the world better?

Strand	Enquiry Question	Sticky Knowledge	End Point
Bani and Kirtan	Why is Ardas important?	Ardas connects Sikhs to God and community.	Explain its significance.
Learning About the Gurus	What made Guru Har Rai Ji and Guru Har Krishan Ji	Compassion and service are leadership qualities.	Compare their contributions.
Living Sikhi	What does Degh Tegh Fateh teach Sikhs?	Service and justice are linked.	Explain Sikh responsibility.
Personalities	How did Bhai Kanhaiya Ji demonstrate	Compassion extends to all.	Explain humanitarian service.
Historical Events	Why is Harmandir Sahib important?	It symbolises equality and humility.	Explain its significance.

Year 5

Big Idea: How do Sikh values influence society?

Strand	Enquiry Question	Sticky Knowledge	End Point
Bani and Kirtan	What messages does Gurbani teach?	Gurbani guides life choices.	Explain how sacred texts shape behaviour.
Learning About the Gurus	Why is Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji remembered?	He defended freedom of belief.	Explain martyrdom.
Living Sikhi	How do Sikh values inspire success?	Faith influences purpose and ambition.	Evaluate modern role models.
Personalities	How did Sikh women shape Sikh history?	Sikh women influenced faith and community.	Explain their significance.
Historical Events	Why were the Five Takhts established?	They provide Sikh leadership.	Explain their role today.

Year 6

Big Idea: What does Sikhi look like in the modern world?

Strand	Enquiry Question	Sticky Knowledge	End Point
Bani and Kirtan	Why is Guru Granth Sahib Ji the Living Guru?	Guru Granth Sahib Ji is the eternal Guru.	Evaluate its significance.
Learning About the Gurus	How did Guru Gobind Singh Ji shape Sikh identity?	The Khalsa transformed Sikh identity.	Evaluate his legacy.
Living Sikhi	How does the Rehit Maryada guide Sikhs today?	It provides guidance and unity.	Analyse contemporary Sikh identity.
Personalities	What legacy did Banda Singh Bahadur leave?	Leadership requires courage and justice.	Evaluate his contribution.
Historical Events	How does the Rehit Maryada help unite Sikhs worldwide?	Shared values unite global Sikh communities.	Evaluate modern Sikh identity.

8. Sikh Assemblies Enquiry Questions

Theme	Enquiry Question	Sikh Studies Strand	Falcons Value Link
Ardas	Why is Ardas an important part of Sikh life?	Strand A: Bani & Kirtan	Respect
	What does Ardas teach Sikhs about gratitude and humility?	Strand A: Bani & Kirtan	Kindness, Respect
	Why do Sikhs remember key figures and martyrs in Ardas?	Strand B: Learning About the Gurus	Courage, Respect
	How can remembering the sacrifices of others inspire us today?	Strand B: Learning About the Gurus	Courage, Perseverance
Ten Gurus	What can we learn from the leadership of the Ten Sikh Gurus?	Strand B: Learning About the Gurus	Leadership
	How did the Gurus demonstrate courage, compassion and service?	Strand B: Learning About the Gurus	Courage, Kindness
	What qualities make a good leader?	Strand E: Sikh Living	Leadership, Responsibility
	How can we demonstrate leadership in our school community?	Strand E: Sikh Living	Leadership, Responsibility
Guru Granth Sahib Ji	Why is Guru Granth Sahib Ji at the heart of Sikh life?	Strand C: Guru Granth Sahib Ji	Respect
	How can the teachings of Guru Granth Sahib Ji guide daily decisions?	Strand C: Guru Granth Sahib Ji	Integrity, Responsibility
	Why is it important to seek wisdom and guidance?	Strand C: Guru Granth Sahib Ji	Aspiration

Theme	Enquiry Question	Sikh Studies Strand	Falcons Value Link
Simran	Why is Simran important for Sikhs?	Strand A: Bani & Kirtan	Reflection
	How can Simran help Sikhs live peaceful and purposeful lives?	Strand A: Bani & Kirtan	Wellbeing
	How can moments of quiet reflection help us in everyday life?	Strand E: Sikh Living	Resilience, Wellbeing
Values Link	How can we put this value into practice at Falcons Primary School?	Strand E: Sikh Living	Monthly Value Focus

Overarching Assembly Enquiry

Enquiry Question	Sikh Studies Strands	Falcons Values
How do Sikh beliefs, teachings and practices help Sikhs live meaningful and purposeful lives?	Strands A, B, C & E	Respect, Responsibility, Courage, Kindness, Leadership and Aspiration

Appendix A: Vocabulary Progression

- **EYFS:** Sikh, Guru, Waheguru, Simran, Vaisakhi, Khanda
- **Year 1 and Year 2:** Ik Oankar, Mool Mantar, Khalsa, Paath, Panj Pyare, Sahibzade
- **Year 3 and Year 4:** Nitnem, Sangat, Langar, Seva, Gurmukhi, Harmandir Sahib, Miri Piri
- **Year 5 and Year 6:** Takht, Hukamnama, Rehit Maryada, Panth, Sarbat Khalsa, Martyrdom, Human Rights

Appendix B: Whole School Enquiry Progression

Strand	Reception	Year 1/2	Year 3/4	Year 5/6
Bani & Kirtan	What is Simran?	Why is prayer important?	How does Gurbani shape lives?	Why is Guru Granth Sahib Ji the Living Guru?
Gurus	Who was Guru Nanak Dev Ji?	What did the Gurus teach?	How did the Gurus shape Sikhi?	How did the Gurus influence Sikh identity?
Living Sikhi	What does it mean to be Sikh?	How do Sikhs live their faith?	How do Sikh values shape actions?	How does Sikh identity shape life today?
Personalities	Who are Sikh role models?	Why are they remembered?	What can we learn from them?	What is their lasting legacy?
History	Why do Sikhs celebrate Vaisakhi?	How was the Khalsa formed?	Which events shaped Sikh history?	How do historical institutions influence Sikhs today?

Appendix C: Annual Sikh Events Calendar

- Guru Ram Das Ji Gurpurab
- Bandi Chhor Divas
- Guru Nanak Dev Ji Gurpurab
- Sahibzade Shaheedi
- Guru Gobind Singh Ji Gurpurab
- Guru Har Rai Ji Gurpurab
- Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji Gurpurab
- Guru Arjan Dev Ji Gurpurab
- Vaisakhi
- Guru Angad Dev Ji Gurpurab
- Guru Amar Das Ji Gurpurab
- Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji Gurpurab
- Guru Har Krishan Ji Gurpura

Appendix D: Places of Worship Programme

Year Group	Places of Worship
Reception	Gurdwara Sahib
Year 1	Gurdwara Sahib and St Mary's Church
Year 2	Gurdwara Sahib and Leicester Hebrew Congregation
Year 3	Gurdwara Sahib and Shri Swaminarayan Mandir
Year 4	Gurdwara Sahib and Darul Argam Educational Trust
Year 5	Gurdwara Sahib and St Mary's Church
Year 6	Gurdwara Sahib

Appendix E: Annual Sikh Events Calendar

Reception

- Oral retell
- Drawing and explanation

Year 1/2

- Story sequence
- Guided explanation

Year 3 /4

- Timeline
- Reflection journal
- Written explanation

Year 5/6

- Investigation
- Debate
- Extended writing

Appendix F: Recommended Resources

Reception

Books	Video/s	Other Resources/Websites
• https://sharecharityuk.com/product-category/childrens-books/ • Share Charity UK • 3x sensory (touchy feely books) books • Sikh Turban, Kara and Places of Worship • QR code on back of books contain free downloadable resources, Lesson plans, worksheets etc	• https://youtu.be/JZIM9h3CCbI?si=8wVvV3d2sylixdgp • THE MANY COLORS OF HARPREET SINGH	Preschool	Read Aloud	Story • Youtube book reading • The Many Colors of Harpreet Singh	• https://linktr.ee/premrasbooks • Prem Ras Linktree - lesson plans for some books, ebooks, • Free resources on Prem Ras

Key Stage 1

Books	Video/s	Other Resources/Websites
• Fauja Singh Keeps Going: How the Oldest Person to Ever Run a Marathon Made History By Simran Jeet Singh • Focus: Inspiring modern Sikh role models, perseverance, resilience, and identity.	• BBC Bitesize – Primary Sikhism (KS1 & KS2) - https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z7gjmp3	• BBC Teach Class Clips (KS2 RE & Sikhism) - https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/articles/zkc4y9q

Key Stage 1/2

Books	Video/s	Other Resources/Websites
• Guru Nanak's Journey and Teachings (Jasdip Kaur) - https://www.etsy.com/uk/listing/1809647550/guru-nanak-guru-guide-me-sikh-sikhism	• Sikhnet animated stories - https://sikhnet.com/stories	• Basics of Sikhi FREE downloadable

Key Stage 2

Books	Video/s	Other Resources/Websites

• https://www.worldofbooks.com/en-gb/products/sikh-stories-book-anita-ganeri-9788120727519?sku=GOR010439406
• Focus: Retellings of key Sakhis from the lives of the Gurus, explicitly tailored for primary RE and history curricula.
• https://www.amazon.co.uk/stores/author/B0C5RB1XSB
• Prem Ras books for KS2 - https://premraskids.com/
	• https://youtu.be/rzVC5Zfq9eM?si=DTsaoiXEV1UKGZTm
	• The Five Ks of Sikhi
	• Focus: Detailed explanation of the 5 Ks, their historical origin, and spiritual Significance.
	• BBC Bitesize videos to Sikhi
	  ◦ https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z7gjmp3
	  ◦ https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zsjpyrd
		• Free Infographics downloadable
		• Share Charity UK website - https://sharecharityuk.com/forschools/
		• Sikh Education Service - https://www.sikheducationservice.co.uk/
		• Harkirat Singh - Sikh Education Officer
		• Serving Schools, Gurdwaras, Hospitals and SACRE's across the UK

General Sikh Resources

Books	Video/s	Other Resources/Websites
• TWINKL Resources	• TES Resources	• SparkleBox Resources

Core Texts

- Stories of Guru Nanak Dev Ji
- Stories of the Ten Gurus
- Illustrated Sikh History Timeline

Artefacts

- 5Ks - Kara, Kanga, Kirpan, Kachera, Kes examples
- Chaur Sahib, Rumalla Sahib

Community Links

- Local Gurdwara visits
- Sikh speakers
- Khalsa Aid
- Midlands Langar Seva
- Local Sikh professionals

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