

Key Knowledge

There are many different things that people consider special and precious to them. Many Jewish people have special objects around their homes or that they wear.

A Mezuzah is one of these precious objects. Inside the Mezuzah is a scroll containing the Shema prayer written in Hebrew. It outlines their main belief about God. Many Jewish homes have a Mezuzah by their door. This regularly reminds Jewish people of their main beliefs.

Shabbat is a special day each week for Jewish people which lasts from sunset on Friday to sunset on Saturday. Many Jewish people rest on Shabbat, spending time with their families and focusing on their faith. This is to represent the day God spent resting after creating the World. Many Jewish families will have a special family meal on the Friday evening including challah bread and will recite prayers and blessings for each other. On the Saturday, many Jewish people visit their Synagogue.

Chanukah or Hanukah is another special time for Jewish people. It commemorates the victory of the Maccabees in reclaiming their temple in Judea and being able to practice their religion freely. Hanukah lasts 8 days and during this time Jewish people light candles on a candle stick called a Menorah, play with toys such as dreidel and eat special food.

Key images



Possible experiences

Invite a Jewish person in to speak about their Shabbat or Hanukah

Set up a Shabbat meal in the classroom.

Enfield SACRE Statutory requirements

- A2 – Retell and suggest meanings to some religious and moral stories, exploring and discussing sacred writings and sources of wisdom and recognising the traditions from which they come.
- A3 – Recognise some different symbols and actions which express a community's way of life, appreciating some similarities between communities.
- B1 – Ask and respond to questions about what individuals and communities do, and why, so that pupils can identify what difference belonging to a community might make.
- C1 – Explore questions about belonging, meaning and truth so that they can express their own ideas and opinions in response using words, music, art or poetry

Prior learning

- During EYFS, children will have had some experience of different holy religions.
- In year 1, they will have learnt about the Synagogue and some Jewish practices.

Key vocabulary

Spelling	Definition
Precious	something of high value
Mezuzah	a small parchment scroll containing handwritten Hebrew verses from the Shema prayer
Beliefs	a firm thought that something is true
Shabbat	the day of the week set aside for worship and rest
Torah	the Jewish holy book
Challah	a Jewish bread eaten on Shabbat
Synagogue	The Jewish place of worship
Menorah	a nine-branch lamp used to celebrate, remember, and honour the miracle of Hanukah
Hanukah	The festival of lights to celebrate the rededication of the Temple in Judea.

Possible deeper thinking questions

What is precious to you?

Do you need to think about your beliefs every day?

Should everyone have the right to practice their religion anywhere they are?