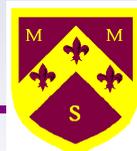




## Knowledge Organiser RE

### Upper Key Stage 2

*Does the community of the Mosque help Muslims lead better lives?*



### Key Vocabulary

*Qur'an*

*Qur'anic verses*

*Mosque*

*Allah*

*Ummah Community*

*Imam*

*Symbolism*

*Muhammed*

*Mecca*

*Mihrab*

*Minbar*

*Ka'ba Mecca*

*Islamic teaching*

### Key Questions

*What does it mean to be part of a community?*

*What is the significance of the mosque for the Ummah and the identity of the Muslim community?*

*How is the mosque used by Muslims?*

*What are the key features of the mosque and what do they symbolise?*

*How does the mosque compare to other places of worship?*

*Does the community of the mosque help people live better lives?*

### Key Vocabulary

*Orientation architecture*

*Ritual washing - wudu*

*Eid al Fitr Eid al Adhu*

*Madrassas*

*Zakat Iftar*

*Ramadan*



## Key Content

The **Mosque** is the key place of worship for Muslims and is also the centre of the Muslim community or **Ummah**, which relates to the **universal Muslim community**. After home and workplace, it is the most frequented place for a Muslim.

It is primarily a place of worship, but also serves as an education centre for all members of the family and has many other functions as well.

It is usually led by a person known as the **Imam**, who is respected for his wide knowledge of **Islam** and the **Qur'an**. Traditionally, the Imam plays the role of a leader, teacher, advisor, and a judge in minor disputes.

There are some differences between Mosques because Islam allows for some different interpretations as long as it is not in conflict with the sacred texts of the Qur'an.

The tradition of Islamic communities building mosques goes back to the time of **Muhammad**, who built the mosques in **Medina**. These mosques introduced some of the features that are still common, including the niche at the front of the prayer space known as the **mihrab** and the tiered pulpit called the **minbar**. It was also constructed with a **large courtyard**, also common among mosques built since then. All the mosques have a similar **orientation**; the position of the **Mihrab** ensures that worshippers are facing towards Mecca.

The most famous Mosque is the **Ka'ba**. It is one of the holiest sites of Islam.

The **architecture** of the mosque reveals many key Muslim beliefs: there are no pictures, but the decorations are mostly based on Islamic **calligraphy** because of the rule forbidding the making of images of people and living creatures.

Men and women are usually kept separate in the mosque, with women often not required to attend and seated upstairs with the young children.

The **Qur'an** is not kept wrapped on a high shelf in the Mosque as the whole building is considered holy.

The main worship hall is organised in such a way as to ensure that worshippers face the same direction, close together so that they move almost in unison during the prayer rituals.

There are places for **ritual washing** - performing **wudu** is essential before offering prayers.

During Islamic festivals (**Eid al Fitr** and **Eid al Adhu**) the mosques is the focus for special morning prayers, During Ramadan many mosques will provide food before the early morning prayers and the **Iftar** that breaks the fast each day. It is also the place to which Muslims bring their charity gift (**Zakat**) at the end of **Ramadan**.

Many mosques also contain **madrassas** or Islamic schools, where children and adults learn more about Islam. It is also the focus on Fridays for the **5 daily prayers**; during the week many people will pray at home or in the work place, but make an effort to attend the mosque on the Friday for the teaching as well as the prayers.