RE – Lesson 5

This week we’re going to be learning about the Sikh scriptures called the Guru Granth Sahib.

Watch the videos:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/religious-studies-ks2-the-guru-granth-sahib/zms2t39>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/z9gkq6f>

The teachings of the Sikh religion were passed down from Guru to Guru and then written down in a very special book, the Guru Granth Sahib. The Guru Granth Sahib is used to guide the everyday thoughts and actions within a Sikh family and the rituals involved. It is considered to be more than just a book to Sikhs, it is treated as a living Guru.

5867 sacred hymns or Shabads make up the Guru Granth Sahib. A special act of worship is called the Akhand Path, when all of the sacred scriptures are read aloud. This takes approximately 2 days.

Precious copies of the Guru Granth Sahib are kept at Gurdwaras and are treated with great respect. It is expected that in the presence of the Guru Granth Sahib, Sikhs will bow their heads, cover their hair and remove their shoes. After each prayer service at the Gurdwara, the Guru Granth Sahib is carried on the head as a sign of respect and water is sprinkled along the path it will take to cleanse the route. The Guru Granth Sahib is kept in a special resting room, called the Sach Khand, where it is kept covered and prayers are said before it is left for the night.

Task 1:

The quote below is from the Guru Granth Sahib.

*Let wisdom be your mother, and contentment your father. Let truth be your brother – these are your best relatives.*

Discuss this with someone at home and think about what it might mean. How might a Sikh interpret this teaching? What impact might it have on the way they live their lives? Explain your ideas and opinions clearly below, giving examples or justifications where necessary.

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