

Sikhism Knowledge Organiser

The 5 K's Sikhs demonstrate their membership of the Khalsa by committing to perform daily prayers and also by wearing the 5 K's.

These objects are not special in themselves, but they represent beliefs and practices that are significant for Sikhs. The Turban is not one of the 5 K's, but it is an important outward sign of their faith for Khalsa Sikhs.



Key Terms	Definitions
The 5 K's	Items which represent beliefs that are fundamental to the Sikh faith.
Turban	A head covering for a male Sikh to wear in order to keep his hair clean and tidy

Kesh	Uncut hair – Hair should be left to grow, but must be kept clean and combed. This represents that sikhs are not altering what God created, showing devotion.
Kirpan	A sword – reminds Sikhs that it is their duty to fight against evil. The Kirpan should never be used for attack.
Kachera	Shorts worn as underwear – at the time they were introduced most men wore long, loose clothes. Guru Gobind Singh said that it was a symbol of changing times. But they were also more practical during battle!
Kara	Steel bracelet – At first was very broad and used to protect arms in battle; today, the circle bangle remind Sikhs that God has no beginning or end and the steel is a symbol of strength.
Kanga	Small comb – keeping clean and tidy is part of a Sikh's religion. The comb helps the hair stay neat and reminds them that their lives should be tidy and organised

The Gurdwara

The Sikh place of worship is called the gurdwara. This means 'Door to the Guru'. Some gurdwaras are purpose built but some, especially outside of India, may be in converted houses or other buildings. The important thing is not the building, it is the fact that the Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh holy book, is there.

Inside the Gurdwara

- Diwan Hall – Room where Sikh's worship
- Guru Granth Sahib's bedroom – Where the Guru Granth Sahib is put at night
- Langar – Kitchen and dining room where a communal vegetarian meal is served after worship
- Washroom – To wash hands and feet before worship
- Shoe Rack/Room – To keep shoes as they are not worn inside the gurdwara

Outside the Gurdwara

The one thing by which all gurdwaras can be recognised is the Nishan Sahib. The Nishan Sahib a yellow/orange flag with the Sikh symbol, the khanda, on it. The flag flies high above the gurdwara.