

Authority and Community



Citizen

Citizen – a legal member of a country/state, which involves being entitled to certain rights and completing certain duties. For example, obeying the law and voting in elections.

“Mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith”

Muslim Dress

- Muslims dress modestly. This means that many choose to cover their bodies up.
- There are 3 types of veil that some Muslim women wear:
- The **Hijab** – This is like a headscarf.
- The **Niqab** – This covers a ladies' face, leaving a slit for her eyes.
- The **Burka** – This covers a ladies' face completely. The area over the ladies' eyes is made of mesh so that she can still see.

The Qur'an

- The word of **Allah** given to **Muhammad** through Jibril
- Originally dictated in Arabic
- The original words have never been altered
- Divided into 'Surahs' (Chapters)
- Supplemented by the **Hadiths** and the **Sunnah**
- Treated with great respect – Muslims wash before reading from it and use a **rehl (stand)** to ensure it does not get dirty.

The attributes of Allah

Muslims believe that Allah has 99 names which all describe aspects of Him.

- **Transcendent** - Allah is above and beyond anything that exists in the world.
- **Fair and just** - Allah judges everyone equally.
- **Immanent** - Allah is close to every human and within all things on Earth.
- **Omnipotent** - Allah is all-powerful.
- **Beneficent** - Allah is all-loving.
- **Merciful** - Allah shows compassion and mercy.

Community

Community – 1. A group of people living in the same area. 2. Sharing or having certain attitudes or interests in common.

The **Ummah** is the name given to the Muslim community, bound together by their faith.

One of the main things that unites the **ummah** are the **Five Pillars of Islam**.

Five Pillars of Islam

1. **Shahadah (Declaration of faith)** – All Muslims recite these words every day – “There is no God but Allah and Muhammad is His messenger.”
2. **Salah** – Praying 5 times a day (Sunni Muslims)
3. **Zakah** – Giving 2.5% of earnings to charity once a year.
4. **Sawm – Fasting** (going without food and drink) during daylight hours in the month of **Ramadan**.
5. **Hajj** – Going on a **pilgrimage** (special journey) to Makkah in Saudi Arabia.

Authority

Authority – Having power, influence or control over something/somebody.

Sources of **authority** for **Muslims**:

- The **Qur'an** – the Muslim holy book.
- The **Sunnah** – the social and legal customs and practices of the Muslim community.
- The **Hadith** – A collection of sayings of the Prophet Muhammad.
- **Shariah Law** – Islamic law.