

The Revelation of the Holy Qur'an: interesting Islamic learning for 5–6-year-olds

This PowerPoint sequence supports ideas from Autumn 2017's *REtoday* magazine. Start your class off on the next slide.

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Aims of the learning

- To enable 5–6-year-olds to think for themselves about holy words and sacred books.
- To enable pupils to know simple information about the Qur'an and the story of its origin.
- To enable pupils to think for themselves about what might make words sacred or holy.
- To enable pupils to express their own ideas in writing, and learn from Islam through speaking and listening.

Revelation: a big idea for little people

- At Riverside Primary School in Southwark, our 5–6-year-olds were learning about Islam. They thought about the messages which Prophet Muhammad received from the Angel Jibril, and began to learn about the Muslim holy book, the Qur'an.
- I taught them that in Islamic understanding, all the Prophets received messages from God, including Moses and Jesus (connecting to earlier learning). The Last Prophet of Islam, Muhammad, received his first revelation in a cave from the mighty Angel Jibril. My children looked at some examples of (simplified) sayings from the Qur'an which were a part of the message, and they heard some stories of the Prophet's life.
- The children identified with the fact that Muhammad said he could not read or recite: they feel this acutely for themselves! Then came the big question: if an angel sent a message to Earth today, what would it say? With a whole-school focus on writing, the children took a piece of golden paper and created their angel messages for today's planet.

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geegle and a kid.



Be kind to animals
Be kind to poor people
Jibril

Give money
to poor people
and be kind
to people
and do not
hurt animals
and do not
fight people

Be kind to your
yos families.



The children's suggestions about what the angels might say today included:

- 'You don't kill animals and people, and be kind.' Dylan-Lee
- 'Be kind to animals and be kind to poor people. Jibril.' Isabelle
- 'Be kind to your families.' Esther
- 'Give money to people and be kind to people. Do not hurt animals. Do not fight people.' Etienne
- 'Pray to God five times.' Simon
- 'Be kind to your parents because they look after you.' Arabella

You should
to people
animals
should love
and babies
are your
mum and dad



You should be
gracious to
other people
Atiaat
and you should be
polite

be kind to your mum and
dad and sisters or brothers

The children's suggestions about what the angels might say today included:

'You should be graceful to other people and you should be polite.' Atiaat

'Be kind to your mum and dad or sisters and brothers.' Chloe

'You should be kind to people and animals and you should love your mum and dad because they are your only mum and dad.' Joe

Class teacher and RE subject leader, Abi, writes:

- 'In this, my class were encouraged to bring their learning about Islamic sacred text, revelation and the Prophet into focus in ways that also expressed their own values and ideas. Something about the golden paper and the time given to this simple writing task led to good responses not just from three or four pupils, but from the whole class.'
- 'What pleased me about this work was that children really engaged with the idea of messages being special or sacred. They concentrated really well, and were attached to – proud of – the messages they wrote. They also really listened to each other.'
- 'After the whispering they could all say which was the favourite of the messages they had heard. At our school we want RE to develop in directions including more chances for reflective work and deeper understanding of more than one religion. I think this lesson is a step in the right direction.'



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