

We are continuing to follow our planned Religious and Moral Education Programme. This term P6's RME topic is Islamic Weddings.

Lesson 3: Muslim weddings

Arranged Marriages

- Most Islamic weddings are arranged by the parents of the two families.
- Agreed marriages are an ancient Islamic tradition and can happen when the couple have never met, or when the man expresses an interest in a Muslim woman.
- This is very successful amongst Muslims and have a lower rate of divorce.

The Mahr

- The bridegroom arranges to pay his future wife a sum of money before the wedding.
- This is called the mahr.
- This shows he can support his wife and children.
- Some of the mahr can be kept by the husband and only paid to his wife if they divorce. This enables the woman to have enough money to start a new life.



The Ceremony

- The marriage usually takes place in the home or the mosque.
- The Nikah (marriage contract) is read and signed by both parties to show they have agreed to the marriage. This can be done anywhere as long as there are two male witnesses present.
- Normally the ceremony consists of reading from the Qur'an and the exchange of vows in front of witnesses for both partners.
- Often the Imam is present and performs the ceremony and may give a short sermon.
- The marriage is now complete but in Britain the couple must have a civil ceremony at the Register Office.

P6 Week of 01.02.21

The Walimah

- Families like to celebrate a wedding but this is not essential.
- The walimah varies according to family traditions.
- The bride's family holds a party one day and the groom's family another day.
- People attending these parties dress up.
- The bride chooses red or pink for her dress and the groom may wear a headdress.
- Sometimes the walimah is a huge feast with hundreds of guests with the males and females in separate rooms.
- This process may last several days.

Clothing

- Muslims wear special clothing to mark the celebration of marriage.
- Brides will traditionally wear a red sari with lavish amounts of gold jewellery.
- They may also have their hands stained with a henna mixture painted in elaborate mendhi patterns.
- The groom will dress in a white tunic and trousers or in a western style suit.
- The groom is made to wear a garland of flowers around his neck as well as a white headdress with long fringes over his face.
- This symbolism reminds the groom that he cannot see his bride until after the ceremony.



Quiz

1. What is the mahr?
2. Why do Muslims think a mahr is necessary?
3. What sort of information is contained in the nikah?
4. List the people who must be present at the signing of the nikah.
5. Why might a Muslim wedding last several days?
6. What is Mendhi?
7. Name one similarity and one difference between a Muslim and Christian wedding.