

RE – Ceremonies – Willow Class

Key Vocabulary	
ceremony	An important event. Ceremonies are held on special occasions and usually celebrate or remember something important. Lots of religions have special ceremonies for different events. Some ceremonies are similar in different religions (such as weddings), but some ceremonies are unique or special to one particular religion.
Bar Mitzvah	This means 'Son of the Commandment'. A Jewish boy becomes a Bar Mitzvah when he is thirteen years old.
Bat Mitzvah	This means 'Daughter of the Commandment'. A Jewish girl becomes a Bat Mitzvah when she is twelve years old.
Torah	The Jewish holy book.
rite of passage	This is part of growing up.

Aqiqah

There are lots of different ways to welcome a new baby. A Muslim **ceremony** for this is called Aqiqah and is where the baby is introduced to family and friends and a meal is shared to thank Allah (God) for giving them a child. Prayers are said for the baby. The baby has their hair cut or shaved off. The removed hair is weighed and then its weight in silver or gold is given to charity.



Bar and Bat Mitzvahs

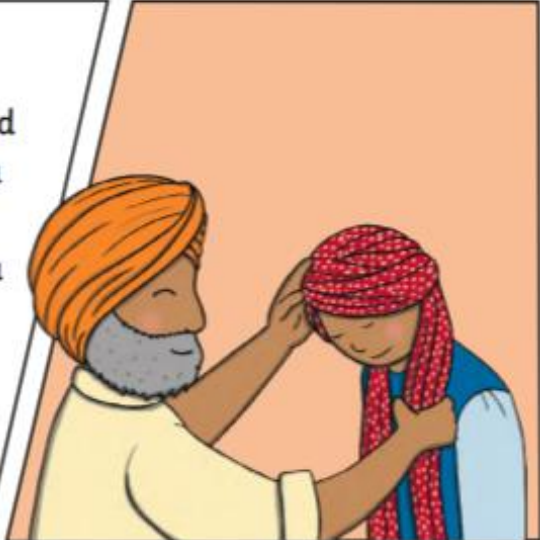
When Jewish boys and girls reach a certain age, they become responsible for their actions and must follow Jewish rules. Many families celebrate this with a special **ceremony**. This is a **Bar Mitzvah** for boys and a **Bat Mitzvah** for girls. Becoming a **Bar Mitzvah** or **Bat Mitzvah** is a '**rite of passage**'. Young Jewish people spend a lot of time preparing for these **ceremonies**. They read the **Torah** and learn about their faith. The **ceremonies** have some differences for boys and girls but both boys and girls usually speak about the important things they have learned about. After the **ceremonies**, many families have a party or celebration.



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Key Vocabulary	
dastar	The name of a turban worn by men in the Sikh religion. It covers the head. It covers a man's hair and protects it from getting tangled or dirty.
Dastar Bandi	A Dastar Bandi is a turban-tying ceremony where a Sikh boy starts wearing a dastar.
wedding	A ceremony, and the celebrations before and after this, when two people get married to one another.
sari	A traditional type of clothing. It is a long piece of fabric that is draped around the body.
safa	A wedding turban.

Dastar Bandi Sikhs believe that hair is a gift from God. It shouldn't be cut and it should be kept very clean. It should be covered in public and in religious buildings. Men wear a **dastar** to protect their hair and to show others that they are Sikhs. During the **Dastar Bandi**, a boy will sit in front of the Guru Granth Sahib (the Sikh holy book) and an elder will tie the turban on his head. Afterwards, he will be prayed for and he may receive gifts. Often people eat and celebrate together afterwards.



A Hindu Wedding Hindu **weddings** are often very big celebrations. Lots of people attend and the celebrations can even last more than one day! The bride wears beautiful silk clothing that is often embroidered with detailed designs and jewels; she might wear a **sari**. The groom often wears a jewelled **safa**. At the **wedding** venue, a mark is put on the foreheads of the groom and his family with red kum-kum powder. This marks the start of the two families being joined together. One important part of the **ceremony** is when the bride and groom walk around the sacred fire. They take seven steps and say prayers. This is called Saptapadi.

