

# Buddhist Faith Child Kit

## Buddhist Faith Child Pack Product Code: BU-CHILD

### Introduction

The main purpose behind the faith child collection is to introduce a child from the faith to your pupils. This idea stems from sessions which the Suffolk County RE team have put into practice and found successful. Each faith child has been given their own identity and bag full of artefacts that are important to their daily worship and religious way of life. The idea of having a bag is that these artefacts belong to a child who has brought them in to show the class. This provides an awareness that these are someone's possessions and are worthy of care and respect. As the teacher delivers the artefacts from the bag in a show and tell session, they can describe them and their associated customs and beliefs. Children will have a greater understanding of what it is like to be a child from a different faith. Say hello to Dillon and examine all of the different artefacts that he has brought to show you.

### Puja Bowls

As part of their worship or meditation ritual, Buddhists may place offerings in small bowls which they then place in front of a shrine. The offerings may include water, flowers, fruit, money and rice. Rice and water represent the basic necessities of life. Water is also associated with cleaning and the flowers are representative of the transient nature of life. Flowers also contain the seed of new life within them. Puja bowls are used to focus worshippers spiritual awareness. They are used to contain offerings such as food (hard and soft) water (2 types – to wash and to drink) incense, flowers and lights.

### Buddha Statue

The representations of Buddha vary according to the different schools of Buddhism and the country of origin. This particular Buddha has its hand gesture in the Dhyana-Mudra position which represents total concentration in meditation.

### Prayer Beads

Mala means necklace or garland. This is a set of beads which are used during devotional practices or meditation. Usually there will be 108 beads, which help to keep count of the number of mantras that are being said. 'Mantra' means 'instrument of thought' and this can be a verse, syllable or series of syllables. Buddhists believe that each manta represents a different aspect or quality of enlightenment – mainly being those of love, compassion, fearlessness or energy. Buddhists believe that mantras can develop these qualities.

### **The Monkey King Storybook**

Depicting a traditional tale from the Buddhist religion, this story follows how the king of the monkeys helps a human king learn about putting other people first. It examines the themes of greed, heroism, selflessness and change.

### **The Lion and the Jackal Storybook**

This consists of a traditional Buddhist tale which features a community of jackals and lions that learn that friendship is built on trust and generosity.