- > What do the main concepts in Islam reveal about the nature of Allah?
- > What is the purpose of visual symbols in a mosque?
- The oneness of God (*tawhid*) and its reflection in the *shahadah* (statement of faith)
- God as creator who has created the universe to be in harmony (*muslim* literally, 'in submission' to the will of God); has created human beings to be '*abd* (servant) and *khalifa* (regent) to help him keep things in harmony; has set out a straight path (*shariah*) to help maintain this harmony and offered guidance (the natural world, the Qur'an and the prophets) to help humans follow this path

 The connection between *iman* (faith/beliefs) and *ibadah* (worship/practice) – the ways in which key practices express Muslim beliefs: <u>Five Pillars</u>:

- 1. **Shahadah** (statement of belief): "There is no God but God, and Muhammad is his **prophet**"; expresses beliefs about God and the prophets
- Salat (prayer five times a day): incorporates the Shahadah, involves all Muslims praying together in harmony
- 3. **Zakat** (charitable giving): 2.5% of disposable income annually; purpose is to bring about harmony in a world in which some people have more than they need and some people don't have enough
- 4. *Sawm* (fasting during the month of Ramadan): during this month, Muslims do not eat or drink during the hours of sunlight; the fast as a way to remind Muslims of their commitment to the one God and as a way of helping them experience what it is like go without, which is what life is like every day for some people in the world this should prompt them to try to address this disharmony and bring about more harmony in the world
- 5. *Hajj* (pilgrimage to Makkah): Muslims are expected to carry out this pilgrimage at least once during their lifetime; Muslims all travel to Makkah at the same time, perform the same prayers, speaking the same words, at the same time, carry out the same actions at the same time the pilgrimage as a symbol of the harmony of the global Muslim community (the *ummah*) and their belief in one God
- The *masjid* (mosque) as a 'place of prostration' the role of the mosque in Muslim belief and practice; key features (e.g. *qibla, minaret, minbar*, prayer mats, facilities for *wudu*); ways in which mosques engage with the local community, e.g. #VisitMyMosque day, foodbanks, etc.

