When and why do we whisper?
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Whispering games for learning

• Begin the activities by telling children we are going to learn about whispering. Ask them to talk in pairs about when it is good to whisper. Hear some answers.
• Play a game of Chinese whispers – it is boring if the circle is too large, so set up three or four circles of about 6-8 children to do this. Give them some messages to try out first: ‘There is cheese pie for dinner today.’ ‘Mrs Jones is having a baby in the summer holiday.’ ‘Everyone should remember to be kind.’ ‘When Baby is sleeping, don’t make loud noises.’
• Ask the children if it is true that whispering makes us listen carefully, and talk about why we whisper – to tell a secret, or to ‘not wake the baby.’ Some children have a baby in their homes: ask if they will share what kinds of things people say to the baby, and the kinds of voice they use. Make it fun.
When and why do we whisper?

• Ask the children to think about whispering to a baby. If they could choose some words to whisper, what would they choose? Give some ideas, is it better to go with:

  Welcome to the World! / Welcome to the Family
  You are loved / You are lovely!
  You’ll always be happy / Some days you’ll be happy
  The fun starts here! / The learning starts here
  It’s a perfect world / It’s a wonderful world

• Which ideas do the children like, and can they suggest some ideas of their own?
Muslim custom is to whisper to a new baby
‘God is most great. There is no God but Allah’.

Talk about these questions:
Why whisper?
Why not shout?
Why these words?
How does it feel?
Does it matter that baby doesn’t understand?
When and why do we shout?
Time to shout?

• Remember the words Muslims whisper to new babies and the words we were whispering last time we did RE?

• Shouting is sometimes important too! When is it good to shout? When is it bad to shout? Football? Across a distance? In the park? At home? If we are cross? In the playground? In a crowd? In the classroom?

• We’re going to do some shouting together. Think with a partner of ideas about good words to shout – words that really matter a lot!

• Which of these examples would you say are more important, and worth shouting?

  Every child is important / Every meal is important
  We all have to be fair / We all have to be obedient
  Donuts are delicious / Computers are cool
  Every day, learn something new / Every day, be kind to someone new
  We all love the holidays / We all love the weekend

Tell the children that you will shout the lines first, and they can all shout back. Make it fun.
Why do Muslims shout?

- 1500 years ago, Muslims built tall towers on their mosques. Great builders!
- A prayer caller shouted from the top every time prayers were due.
- There were no clocks in those days
- Shouting out the most important messages is still done from a minaret today.

- The same words as you whisper to a baby, you shout from a minaret [Why?]
Whisper or shout?

- ‘Don’t shout at a baby because it is frightening’
- ‘A minaret is a tall tower on a Mosque’
- ‘There is a religion called Islam’
- ‘Muslims believe in one God’
- ‘Muslims say Allah for God’
- ‘Muslims whisper to babies about God’
- ‘Muslims whisper and shout the same words’.
A shouting competition.
Who has the loudest shout?

• Ask children if they would like to have a shouting competition (you bet!)
• Each group selects a shouting champion – loud and clear! And chooses some words and sentences worth shouting out loud
• Can the chosen contestants go to the highest place in school (a top floor window?) Good supervision is essential.
• Can they shout loudly some of the important words or sentences other children have suggested, to the rest of the class across the playground?
• Who is best at making themselves heard?
• What words and sentences are so important that we should shout them as loud as possible?
Shout!
When and why do we whisper? What did you learn?
When and why do we shout? What did you learn?
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What message is so important to you that you would whisper it?
You are my best friend ever.

Why would you whisper it?
Your best friend isn’t just someone you play with but you rely on them as well. They help you with your problems and they make you happy when you are sad.

What message is so important to you that you would shout it from the highest point?
War leaves pain and suffering. Peace leaves happiness and new life for everyone.

Why would you shout it?
So everyone could hear that even if you win the war you are fighting, it still leaves pain behind while peace only leaves more peace behind.

Zaid is 9
What message is so important to you that you would whisper it?

Be careful to be kind.

Why would you whisper it?

This message works best when told to one, who may then pass it on throughout our world, resulting in a better planet, as more may try to be kind to others, and notice any errors in their ways.

What message is so important to you that you would shout it from the highest point?

It's worth trying it, trying to avoid war.

Why would you shout it?

I would shout it because then more people might start campaigning for peace due to how many would hear me.
Pupils working at level 1:
• Talk about how babies are welcomed into the world by Christians, Muslims and Jewish people.
• Talk about belonging in their own lives: who do they belong to?
• Recall some features of welcoming a baby in Islam, Judaism and Christianity

Pupils working at level 2
• Retell a story of a baby welcoming ceremony
• Recall and suggest meanings for some of the symbols associated with Baptism, Aqiqah and Simchat Bat.
• Respond sensitively to ideas about how to welcome a new baby into the world, thinking for themselves

Pupils working at level 3
• Describe two different ceremonies for welcoming a baby into a religion
• List some similarities and differences between two baby-welcoming ceremonies
• Make simple links to their own ideas from the religions they have learned about.