

How and why do people use ceremonies to show their commitments? (Y3 & Y4)

Key Vocabulary	
Baptism	A Christian ritual, using water to symbolise a person's entry into the faith.
Belief	A strong feeling that something is true or real, even without seeing it.
Commitment	A promise to give your time and energy to something you believe in.
Community	A group of people that share similar interests and hobbies.
Ceremony	A special event where people do things in a specific way to mark an important event.
Event	Something that happens, during an important or special time.
Initiation	Being entered formally into a religion.
Marriage	A legal union between two people.
Promise	A special agreement or vow to do/ not do something.
Rite of passage	An event when a person moves from one stage of life to another.
Ritual	A religious service or ceremony where actions are performed in a set order.
Tradition	A special belief that is passed down from older people to younger people.
Vows	Promises made between two people at a marriage ceremony.

What Is Commitment?

Commitment is a promise to give your time and energy to something you believe in. A commitment doesn't have to be religious. Commitments can be made to family, friendships, a healthy lifestyle, learning a skill or achieving a goal.

Humanism

The Humanist naming ceremony is a non-religious ceremony usually led by a celebrant. The ceremony can take place anywhere. Often, songs are sung or poems are read as part of the ceremony.



Did You Know?

Olivia and Noah are some of the most popular baby names in the UK.

Bar Mitzvah

In the Jewish faith, once boys reach 13 years old, they become responsible for their actions. Boys must commit to learn to read the **Torah** in Hebrew as part of the ceremony.



Bat Mitzvah

When Jewish girls reach 12 years old, they become responsible for their actions. Girls must also recite the **Torah** in Hebrew and practise every day to make sure they get it right.



Holy Communion

For Catholics, the Holy Communion is the first commitment made independently. They must attend lessons to prepare. During the First Holy Communion, bread and wine are symbolic gifts.



Christianity

Many Christian families will have their children christened in a church. The vicar or priest passes water over the baby's head and makes the sign of the cross.

Islam

When a baby is born, Muslims usually recite a prayer called the Adhan into the baby's ear. The baby's head is shaved and the weight of the hair determines how much gold or silver the family will donate to charity.

Marriage

Each wedding is different. Some are held in places of worship and others in a hotel or registry office. **Marriage** is a serious commitment and links two people together through a religious or non-religious ceremony. **Marriage** also links the families and communities of the two people together.

Religious beliefs can affect the way people make commitments to each other. People with religious beliefs often feel that getting married in their place of worship, in front of their god, is very important.

In Hindu Dharma, **marriage** is seen as a **duty**. There are many parts and **rituals** in a Hindu wedding, including the presentation of garlands, lighting of a sacred fire and walking seven steps. For each step taken, a special prayer is said.

