



Buddhism: Do and Don't



Items/Activities	Do	Don't
<p>The Buddha Image</p> <p>Buddha Rupa - pronounced: 'roo-pa')</p>	<p>Please treat the Buddha rupa carefully and with respect. Buddhists have great reverence for the Buddha and treasure anything connected with or representative of him.</p> <p>When displaying a Buddha rupa keep it on a high place such as a shelf or table. It should be at least eye-level with the children.</p> <p>When handling the Buddha rupa, use two hands.</p> <p>The Buddha rupa should ideally be displayed away from other things such as computers, books, other displays, etc.</p> <p>It's much better to use a Buddha rupa that depicts the Buddha's whole body, as opposed to just his head.</p>	<p>Please don't place the Buddha rupa on the floor or low down and when handling the Buddha rupa, don't grasp it by the head or turn it upside down (unless absolutely necessary). Don't handle the Buddha rupa unnecessarily or allow the children to pass the Buddha rupa around.</p> <p>It's better if KS1 children avoid touching the Buddha rupa, and for older children to touch it only when necessary, e.g. when moving the shrine.</p> <p>Please don't confuse the popular 'Laughing Buddha' statue with the Buddha. He is a Chinese character called 'Hotei' and is not the Buddha.</p>
<p>Buddhist Items and Artefacts</p> <p>(such as mala beads, prayer wheels, singing bowls, etc.)</p>	<p>Please understand that many Buddhist religious objects are used in precise ways that have great significance to Buddhist people. Also note that some objects are used only in certain Buddhist traditions (e.g. <i>prayer flags</i> and <i>prayer wheels</i> belong mainly to the Tibetan Tradition).</p> <p>Do display the following Buddhist items: <i>meditation (mala) beads, prayer wheels, prayer flags</i> and <i>singing bowls</i>, but please make sure the children know how they are used. It's important that these things are not simply seen as exotic curiosities.</p> <p>Do feel free to demonstrate to the children how each of these</p>	<p>Please note that some so-called 'Buddhist Artefact Boxes' that can be purchased may contain a number of things that should not be used in the classroom. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Buddhist monk's robes</i> - <i>Buddhist monk's alms-bowl</i> - <i>Buddhist monk's shoulder bag and sitting mat</i> - Various Tibetan Buddhist artefacts such as: <i>vajra and gantra</i> (ceremonial weapon and bell), <i>mandala drawings</i>, and certain <i>statues of Tibetan deities</i>. <p>If in doubt it is best not to use it.</p> <p>Please don't use Tibetan singing bowls unnecessarily. They're an aid to meditation in Tibetan Buddhism and not an instrument. If you can use it in a skilful way to bring calm to</p>



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	<p>things is used.</p> <p>As with the Buddha rupa, please handle these things with respect and only when necessary.</p> <p>Do make use of wall displays with photos of Buddha rupas and Buddhist imagery and texts.</p>	<p>a class, that's fine.</p> <p>Please don't allow children to handle the items unnecessarily.</p>
<p>A Buddhist Shrine</p>	<p>Please do feel free to set up a small Buddhist shrine. It should consist of the four basic items: Buddha rupa, candles, incense sticks (and holder), and flowers.</p> <p>Remember to use three sticks of incense, which represent the Three Jewels (The Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha).</p> <p>As with the Buddha rupa, please place the shrine on a shelf or table separate from other things. It's also advisable to put a cloth on top of the bare surface.</p> <p>If you feel it's appropriate, the children are welcome to light the candles and incense sticks.</p>	<p>Remember that the Buddhist shrine is a shrine and not a display, so please avoid putting Buddhist educational books and the like on it. It is best to keep it simple with the four main shrine items.</p> <p>Please don't place the shrine on the floor or a low place.</p> <p>Please don't place the shrine among other, non-Buddhist items</p> <p>Avoid using candles in the shape of a Buddha or Buddha's head.</p>



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	<p>Please so ensure the children know what the shrine items symbolise.</p> <p>Feel free to decorate the shrine with plants.</p>	
Play/Story-telling	<p>Buddhists are often sensitive about the Buddha being portrayed in plays and films so it's best to avoid it. However, portraying his early life as a prince and his six-year search for enlightenment is fine.</p>	<p>As a matter of respect, please avoid using the following items: <i>Finger puppets, puppets</i> and <i>soft toys</i> that are in the form of the Buddha or Buddhist monks and nuns. Be aware of the '<i>My First Buddha</i>' toy - it's not appropriate.</p>