

Topic of the Month (August 2026)

Topic of the Month helps spark discussion in Religious Studies at Key Stages 4 and 5 by highlighting its relevance today. Use the selected news article and discussion prompts to support your teaching.



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Introduction

This article relates to the recognition of Wesak (Vesak) in a global political context, highlighting Buddhism's cultural and spiritual significance.

[\(Read the full article and view the recording from Buddhistdoor Global\)](#)

Discussion prompts

- Does public celebration strengthen religious identity?
- What Buddhist values are expressed during Wesak (Vesak)?
- Can secular authorities impact religious observance?
- Why is community important in Buddhist festivals?
- Should religious activities take place in political buildings?
- How can Wesak (Vesak) be celebrated in society?

Specification links:

- **GCSE:**
 - Festivals and retreats
 - Puja
 - Features of Buddhist places of worship
 - The life of the Buddha
- **A Level:**
 - The life and work of the Buddha
 - Sources of wisdom and authority
 - The meaning and significance of the three refuges

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