



## Shap Audio Glossary

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The Shap Audio Glossary was a project to help teachers in schools, especially primary schools, with the pronunciation of the vocabulary from the range of religions that the teacher and the child may encounter in their lessons. The text below is from the introduction to the Audio Glossary which can be accessed in full from this collection - to access the Audio Glossary you need to load the [index.html](#) file on this collection into a browser and then click on the appropriate link.

Teachers and students alike are often puzzled as to how to pronounce words they come across when studying religions, or learning about religious education. To help overcome this problem it is intended that all the words in this glossary will, in time, have an associated sound file, which you will be able to activate by clicking on the word. Of course this enterprise has some intrinsic difficulties. In the same way as there are differences between the way in which different native English speakers will pronounce a word, depending on regional or national accent, so too with most other languages. We do not claim to offer the "right" pronunciation, only a close approximation to a generally recognisable common pronunciation.

The Audio Glossary will also be a useful resource to look to when puzzled by the meaning of words found in RE textbooks or other material about religions. Of course there are other glossaries you might look at, for example the one produced by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority. More likely you will just google the word or expression you are puzzled by. Here too there are likely to be disputes as to whether we have explained some words or expressions accurately or clearly.

And then there is the problem of spellings: arti or aarti? Vaisakhi or Baisakhi? Diwali or Divali or Deepavali? Our initial choices are to some extent arbitrary, although as far as possible they reflect the most common usage – Google can find about 4 million entries for Diwali, half a million for Divali.

Roger **Butler** – Editor

Paul **Hopkins** – Technical Supervisor