

The Interfaith Education Centre



St Margaret's Church

Helping your school to promote British values and religious literacy.

"The host was brilliant and easy to understand"
Evaluation from a primary school

For further information please contact:

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Visits to Places of Worship

The Interfaith Education Centre has been leading visits to places of worship for over 30 years during which we have built up good working relationships with sacred places representing the six major world faiths.

Visiting a place of worship supports the development of knowledge and understanding in religious education by enabling learners to explore:

- beliefs
- teachings and authority
- worship, pilgrimage and sacred places
- symbols and religious expression
- religion, family and community
- beliefs in action

"First hand experience promoted understanding."
Evaluation from secondary school



Shree Laxmi Narayan Temple



Hanfia Masjid

It is only when pupils have the opportunity to develop real understanding through engagement and interaction that they will be able to develop an informed and empathetic understanding of religions and religion.

Bradford Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education

The Interfaith Education Centre is part of the City of Bradford MDC Children's Services Diversity and Cohesion Service.

Working alongside schools

As part of Children's Services we are committed to providing a service of the highest possible standard:

- All aspects of your visit will be coordinated by a member of the Interfaith Education Centre team.
- You will be sent an information pack with clear guidance on the dress-code and protocols and a very detailed risk assessment for each place to be visited.
- The faith tutor will contact you to discuss the visit and talk about the intended learning objectives and outcomes.
- Faith tutors receive regular training and are conversant with new initiatives and developments in education. All faith tutors and associates have regularly updated enhanced DBS checks.
- After your visit you will be asked to complete and return an evaluation form which helps us to continuously review and improve our provision.



Ramgharia Gurdwara

Working alongside faith communities

The Interfaith Education Centre liaises carefully with schools ensuring that schools are aware of:

- The arrangements for being greeted by the faith tutor leading the visit, the start time and duration of the visit.
- Their responsibilities for the health and safety of their pupils, the observation of dress codes and maintaining acceptable levels of discipline.

Many visitors will belong to different faiths or be of no faith – their visit will be an important opportunity to meet, learn about and understand people from a different religious and cultural background. This process is greatly assisted if faith communities are aware that;

- visits are for educational purposes and it is not appropriate for pupils to be asked to participate in, or copy, actions that relate to worship of a faith other than their own. This would include accepting blessed food.
- the faith tutor leading the visit may invite visitors to show respect eg by bowing to a shrine, but will not insist, as this may compromise the integrity of some visitors.
- the faith tutor will meet the learning objectives specified by the school and may therefore appear to miss out information that observers might consider to be important.
- schools must observe high standards of safeguarding, therefore it is not appropriate to approach or engage with visiting pupils or to take photographs of them.
- faith tutors are always happy to discuss their work but it is important that they give their full attention to the visits they are leading and should not be approached, unless in an emergency, until their visitors have safely left the premises.