

Young People and Inter Faith Engagement



*an IFN E-Resource
developed for Inter
Faith Week*



Young People Matter!

This resource reflects some of the many excellent activities in the UK which help to promote and develop positive relationships between young people from different faith backgrounds and to encourage them to participate in their communities.

Young people's participation in inter faith learning and activities takes place in a range of contexts:

- Schools, including through Religious Education, whole-school activities, school exchanges, trips and informal dialogue through friendships
- Higher and Further Education contexts, including chaplaincy-led work and work with faith societies, student unions and local community groups
- Locally based youth work, including county youth services, local youth trusts, and programmes of national bodies such as Scouts and Guides
- Exchanges between faith community-led youth groups, including visits to places of worship and inter faith sports tournaments
- Inter faith programmes for young professionals
- Young people, youth organisations, schools and colleges of higher and further education and a host of young people play an active role in Inter Faith Week (IFW), with a wide variety of events taking place across the country.

This resource was based on a series of display boards initially produced by the Inter Faith Network for the UK for the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Inter Faith Week Reception on 25 November 2010. The display was intended to highlight the inter faith work that was being done by young people in the UK.



Captions (Clockwise from top left): Young people perform at a Bolton Faith Ambassadors Event during IFW; Nottingham Inter Faith Council Children's Concert for IFW ; Liverpool Community Spirit Youth Council meeting for their weekly lunch; Young people at the Westhill/NASACRE awards event; three Faiths Forum Parliamentors

Front Cover (left to right): Young representatives of faiths at IFW launch event; Young people at a residential at Scargill House, North Yorkshire, organised by Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum.

Inter Faith Youth Work



Multi-Faith Centre at the University of Derby, Inter Faith Football Tournament

Youth work in the UK comes in many shapes and sizes. Local authorities often have a dedicated youth service, responsible for providing leisure and civic facilities for young people, and employ youth workers who work exclusively with young people. Faith communities, too, will often have dedicated youth work programmes, ranging from religious instruction to leisure and social clubs. There is also a huge range of national youth charities and bodies, national, regional or local, that organise inter faith activities for young people.

Youth inter faith forums are increasingly common, whether it is through young people from a number of religious youth groups engaging in dialogue or working together on a collaborative social action project in their local community, or through non-confessional youth organisations encouraging inter faith dialogue and engagement between members of their organisation who come from different faith traditions.



The Girl Guiding stand at IFW Launch



The NCVYS stand at the IFW launch



Youth at Peace event, Hillingdon Inter Faith Network



Liverpool Community Spirit Youth Council members on a trip to Ullswater

Inter Faith Work in Schools and RE



A young faith representative speaking at the IFW Launch



The Schools Linking Network and Shared Futures Programme stands at the IFW Launch



Children from the Birmingham area compete in a multi-skills sporting competition for IFW

Schools participate in a wide range of inter faith activities and learning in both the maintained and independent sectors. RE teachers often support a range of in-classroom activities with pupils from across the range of faith communities. In some maintained schools of a religious character and some independent schools, chaplains may take the lead in inter faith activities outside of the classroom. Schools also participate in whole-school activities, including special assemblies and talks by members of local religious communities.

External organisations and local inter faith groups help facilitate talks and seminars. Schools can also engage in school linking activities that bring pupils from different schools – and often from different faith communities – together.

RE draws together young people of all different religions and beliefs – and encourages critical self-reflection and informed, sensitive engagement with the other. Because the syllabus reflects the religious make-up of the local community – and because engagement with local faith communities is encouraged – the inter faith engagement and relationships of respect which begin in the classroom can have positive consequences for the wider community. Further, many faith schools welcome young people from different religious backgrounds and also give attention to other religions in their RE curriculum.



Young People at a Three Faiths Forum Schools Linking Event



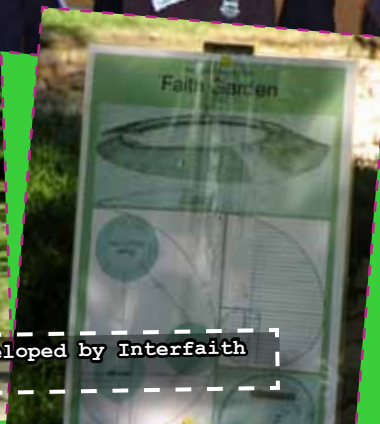
Children from Kirklees Schools with the Mayor of Kirklees at the opening of the Oakwell Hall Faith Garden



Newham Student SACRE members at a meeting for IFW



The Oakwell Hall Faith Garden, developed by Interfaith Kirklees (Schools)



Inter Faith Work: RE and SACREs



Young people taking part in local SACRE inter-faith projects funded by the Westhill/NASACRE Awards



Newham Student SACRE event

Religious Education is an important and established part of the basic curriculum for maintained schools. Each Local Education Authority in England and Wales has a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) which is responsible for overseeing the provision of RE and collective worship for its local authority schools. SACREs are linked together by the National Association of SACREs (NASACRE), which has taken an active role in promoting youth inter faith initiatives through awards given to local SACRE projects, funded by the Westhill Foundation.

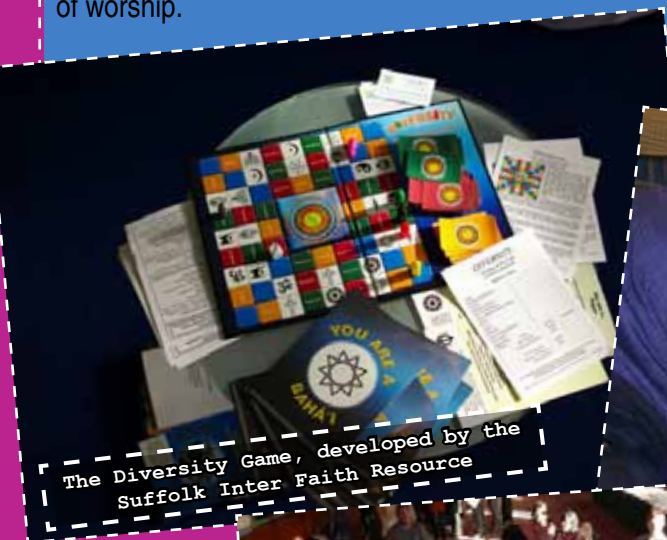
Nationally, the RE Council of England and Wales draws together RE professionals, religious community leaders and other national stakeholders to advise on RE provision. On a local level, SACREs reflect in their membership local faith community representatives, teachers and others, to advise schools and decide the priority areas for local RE teaching. This helps to ensure that RE is locally relevant, and contributes to understanding and respect in the wider community. SACREs also have a role in encouraging RE teachers and schools to engage with local faith communities, including encouraging and helping to resource class visits to local places of worship.



RE Resource Display, IFW Launch



Young people taking part in local SACRE inter-faith projects funded by the Westhill/NASACRE Awards



The Diversity Game, developed by the Suffolk Inter Faith Resource



Young people taking part in local SACRE inter-faith projects funded by the Westhill/NASACRE Awards



Students engaging in inter-faith dialogue, Newham Student SACRE event

Inter Faith Work in Higher and Further Education



Students at the NUS National Student Inter Faith Forum in Manchester

Students participating in a 'Leadership Skills' exercise at the National Student Inter Faith Forum



Higher and Further Education institutions organise, promote and take part in inter faith activities across the country. Many institutions themselves organise events – often in the form of conferences or seminars – for students to take part in. Chaplaincies often play an important role in organising and coordinating inter faith events in Higher and Further Education. Some events also involve collaboration with local community and faith groups as well as with third sector partners who provide support and expertise.

Students in both Further and Higher Education may set up and run inter faith activities – supported by the student unions or existing faith societies. Events range from inter faith stalls at fairs to exhibitions and food days and can involve students, staff and members of the local community. In a number of institutions, staff and students have also set up dedicated inter faith societies.



A student at Blackpool Sixth Form College gets a henna decoration as part of their IFW programme



Cambridge Union Society and East of England Faiths Council Inter Faith Debate for IFW



The HE and FE chaplaincy stand at the IFW launch event



Inset: The proponents for the motion

Inter Faith Work with Young Professionals



Three Faiths Forum ParliAMentors, Michelle, Eva and Amina, graduate from the programme with their mentor Lynne Featherstone MP

It is increasingly important that inter faith work with young people goes through all stages of their education and on into their professional life. Inter Faith organisations and some faith communities are beginning to move into this area; the Three Faiths Forum's mentoring schemes are a good example of this.



Three Faiths Forum ParliAMentors Sindi, Malcom and Muna at work.



Three Faiths Forum ParliAMentors Kash, Raisel and Rachel

Acknowledgements

Inter Faith Youth Trust
Department for Communities and Local Government
National Association of SACRES
Religious Education Council for England and Wales
National Union of Students
East of England Faiths Council
Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum
South East England Faith Forum
Three Faiths Forum
Liverpool Community Spirit
Bolton Faith Ambassadors
Blackpool Sixth Form College

Multi-Faith Centre at the University of Derby
Girl Guiding UK
Nottingham Inter Faith Council
Cambridge Union Society
Newham Student SACRE
Inter Faith Kirklees (Schools)
The Birmingham Mail
Schools Linking Network
Diocese of Southwark Board of Higher Education
Luton Council of Faiths
Hillingdon Inter Faith Network
Westhill Foundation

Detailed Photograph Descriptions

Front Cover

- The young representatives of faiths at the Inter Faith Week launch (Photo IFN)
- Young people at a residential at Scargill House, North Yorkshire, organised by Yorkshire and Humber Faiths Forum. The event was held to facilitate young people to talk about forming United Faiths, the UK's first regional inter faith youth forum (Photo: YHFF)

Young People Matter!

- Young people perform at a Bolton Faith Ambassadors Event during Inter Faith Week (Photo: BFA)
- Nottingham Inter Faith Council Children's Concert for Inter Faith Week (Photo: NIFC)
- Liverpool Community Spirit Youth Council meeting for their weekly lunch (Photo Liverpool Community Spirit)
- Three Faiths Forum ParliaMentors (Photo: 3FF)
- Young people at the Westhill/ NASACRE awards event for the 2005-2010 period. (Photo: NASACRE)

Youth

- Multi-Faith Centre at the University of Derby Inter Faith Football Tournament: youth groups from different faiths compete (Photo: MFC Uni. Derby)
- Girl Guiding Stand at the Inter Faith Week launch: Jo Hobson from Girl Guiding UK with their stand and exhibit (Photo: IFN)
- Liverpool Community Spirit Youth Council members on a trip to Ullswater: Youth Council members explore Ullswater and the surrounding area on the annual Youth Council residential trip (Photo: Liverpool Community Spirit)
- National Council of Voluntary Youth Services (NCVYS) stand at Inter Faith Week launch (Photo: IFN)
- Youth at Peace event, Hillingdon Inter Faith Network: Young people from different faiths performed in public spaces in Hillingdon for Inter Faith Week (Photo: HIFN)

Schools

- Darius Parekh speaking at the Inter Faith Week launch: Darius Parekh a GCSE student in represented the Zoroastrian Faith at the launch event (Photo IFN)
- The Schools Linking Network and Shared Futures Programme stands at Inter Faith Week Launch : Rachel Heilbron of the Three Faiths Forum (left) talks to a delegate during the launch. (Photo: IFN)
- Children from the Birmingham area compete in a multi-skills sporting competition for Inter Faith Week: Children from Corpus Christi Primary, Stetchford and Al-Hijarah Muslim Primary, Bordesly Green, (Photo: Birmingham Mail)
- Young people at a Three Faiths Forum Schools Linking Event: Young people from schools of a religious character in Greater London meet and learn together (Photo: 3FF)
- Children from Kirklees Schools with the Mayor of Kirklees Cllr Andrew Palfreeman at the opening of the Oakwell Hall Faith Garden: (Photo: Inter Faith Kirklees: Schools)
- The Oakwell Hall Faith Garden, developed by Inter Faith Kirklees (Schools) in partnership with Oakwell Hall, the garden was open to groups of schoolchildren who followed a 'faith trail' around the garden (Photo: Inter Faith Kirklees: Schools)
- Inset: A sign depicting the design of the garden (Photo: Inter Faith Kirklees: Schools)
- Newham Student SACRE members meet at Cumberland School during IFW: Newham Student SACRE is a group of students aged 14–16 from across the London Borough of Newham secondary schools who are interested in Religious Education. They meet every six weeks. (Photo: Newham SACRE)

SACREs

- Young people taking part in local SACRE inter faith projects funded by the Westhill/ NASACRE Awards (Photo: NASACRE)
- Group photo at a Newham Student SACRE event. (Photo: Newham SACRE)
- Display of Resources - typical of type of resources provided as RE teaching aids - at the Inter Faith Week launch.(Photo: IFN)
- Young people taking part in local SACRE inter faith projects funded by the Westhill/ NASACRE Awards (Photo: NASACRE)
- The Diversity Game a resource developed by the Suffolk Inter Faith Resource (SIFRE), displayed at the Inter Faith Week launch. (Photo: IFN)
- Young people taking part in local SACRE inter faith projects funded by the Westhill/ NASACRE Awards (Photo: NASACRE)
- Students engaging in inter faith dialogue at a Newham Student SACRE event. (Photo: Newham SACRE)

HE & FE

- Students at the NUS National Student Inter Faith Forum in Manchester: Representatives from different faith groups at different universities came together for a day of inter faith exercises run by the NUS Inter Faith Project. (Photo: NUS)
- Students participating in a 'Leadership Skills' exercise at the National Student Inter Faith Forum: Students discussing how to work as part of a multi-faith team when organising inter faith activities on campus. (Photo: NUS)
- A Student at Blackpool Sixth Form College gets a henna decoration as part of their Inter Faith Week programme: The college worked with the Inter Faith Youth Trust to put on a week long programme of events which involved young people at the school and members of the local community. (Photo: Blackpool Sixth Form College)
- Cambridge Union Society and East of England Faiths Council. Inter Faith Debate for IFW: The motion: "This house believes that faith is essential to democratic debate." (Photo: Cambridge Union Society)
- Inset: The proponents for the motion.
- The HE and FE Chaplaincy Stand at the launch of Inter Faith Week: Siriol Davies of the Diocese of Southwark Board of Education with the HE and FE Chaplaincy stand. (Photo: IFN)

Young Professionals

- Three Faiths Forum ParliaMentors, Michelle, Eva and Amina, graduate from the programme with their mentor Lynne Featherstone MP (Photo: 3FF)
- Three Faiths Forum ParliaMenters Sindi, Malcom and Muna at work (Photo: 3FF)
- Three Faiths Forum ParliaMentors Kash, Raisel and Rachel (Photo: 3FF)

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Registered Charity no. 1068934 Company limited by guarantee no. 3443823
Registered in England.
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