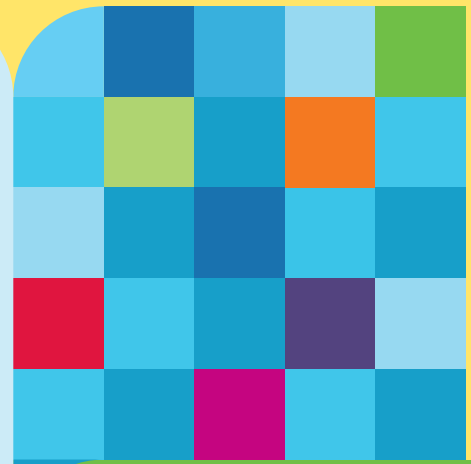


Learning about inter faith activity

A primary resource
for pupils aged 9–11



Teacher introduction



1) BACKGROUND – LEARNING ABOUT INTER FAITH RELATIONS IN THE PRIMARY PHASE

Increasingly, Agreed Syllabuses for Religious Education in England include a requirement to learn about how people of different faiths and beliefs interact with each other in the local community and in the wider world. As well as contributing to RE outcomes, learning about this ‘inter faith’ dimension makes a valuable contribution to understanding ‘Fundamental British Values’, such as respect.

The Inter Faith Network for the UK (IFN) promotes and supports inter faith activity in the UK and teachers will find it useful to visit its website: www.interfaith.org.uk, look at its Facebook page: www.facebook.com/ifnetuk, and follow it on Twitter: twitter.com/ifnetuk. This resource is focused on inter faith activity in England. IFN’s contacts from the national inter faith linking bodies of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales saw these materials in development and may, in due course, produce materials specific to their nations.

2) THE PURPOSE OF THIS RESOURCE

This resource is aimed at teachers of Key Stage 2, ages 9–11. It is intended to help pupils learn about the variety of inter faith activity and to help them investigate inter faith activity in their local area. It can be drawn on as a basis for lesson planning for individual lessons or a number of linked lessons.

There are many excellent resources that promote high quality RE, such as those produced by NATRE. This resource offers additional material based directly on the work of the Inter Faith Network for the UK, to help pupils understand better inter faith activity. It includes examples from its member bodies, as well as from other sources.

When using these resources it may also be useful to organise visits to places of worship. Some areas have faith trails organised by local inter faith groups where pupils walk to different places of worship to experience the diversity they have locally. It may also be possible to invite speakers from faith and belief communities to come to the school to speak about their faiths and beliefs and how they interact with people from different traditions. In some areas of the UK local inter faith groups assist in this process and provide two or more speakers from different religious traditions to come to the school to talk about how they work together in their area.

3) PLANNING POINTERS FOR USING THE RESOURCE

The resource consists of two sets of units

Units 1a and 1b Age 9–11

Unit 1a Religious diversity in the UK and the importance of inter faith activity

Unit 1b Introducing inter faith activity.

These two units are linked, forming the basis for two connected lessons, or a series of lessons. They are suitable for freestanding use or they can be a starting place for additional lessons based on the units below.

Units 2–5 Age 9–11

Unit 2 Let’s talk – inter faith dialogue

Unit 3 Making a difference in the community: inter faith social action

Unit 4 Team spirit – inter faith sport

These units are designed in such a way that teachers can choose individual ones to suit the pupils’ needs and interests and their own interests or areas of knowledge.

They can be tailored by individual schools to help meet relevant requirements for the school or academy, such as those within an agreed syllabus, funding agreement or foundation document.

The units all have a common format:

- About this unit
- Vocabulary
- Expectations
- Learning objectives
- Learning outcomes
- Notes

Where words or phrases are underlined and in blue these are hyperlinked to resources that teachers might find useful. It is always good to check whether they are appropriate to meet the learning needs of pupils. Some pupils may need some help navigating the sites that have been hyperlinked given the sophistication of language used on the websites. The websites to which the resource provides hyperlinks were not designed for pupils aged 9 – 11 years old and it is recommended that teachers read the linked pages to identify where pupils might need extra assistance.

The Inter Faith Network for the UK closed in 2024, with outward facing operations ceasing in April.

In order to ensure that the material in IFN's publications remained available to the public, to inter faith practitioners, and to scholars after IFN's closure, the copyright status of publications has been changed.

Except where otherwise noted, text content in this publication described as Copyright of the Inter Faith Network for the UK is now licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 4.0 International License](#). Unless noted otherwise, the text of guest speakers' presentations remains the copyright the speaker, and any non-textual content (eg photographs) remains copyright the Inter Faith Network for the UK or as stated.

How to use the resource

The units are designed to assist lesson planning rather than be used as lesson plans.

Units are designed to be flexible so that teachers can deliver them in a lesson, over a number of lessons spread over time or in a dedicated period of time such as half a day. There is no recommended length of time for any specific unit. Some units lend themselves to more time and others to less and teachers should feel confident about their curriculum decision making in light of the learning and progress that they want their pupils to make.

The units are largely geared to pupils researching topics. However, the links can also be drawn on by teachers to draw information from them or screen shot them to create their own resources, such as PowerPoint presentations.

Difficult discussions

When discussing religion and belief it is easy to stray into areas where people feel very passionate. For instance, there may be situations where the self-identification of a person or group with a faith community is contested from within the latter. The possibility of difficult discussions should not deter teachers from exploring the issue of inter faith activity. It is important to have ground rules and to be clear about two points from the beginning:

- the importance of listening to others and respecting what they say; and
- that because someone listens to others and respects what they say it does not mean that they have to agree with them.

It is also important to be clear that the term ‘inter faith’ does not imply the compromising of a person’s faith or beliefs or the ‘mixing up of religions’. It is about the meeting of people with different faiths and beliefs to understand each other better, explore shared concerns and make a positive contribution to their communities.

Teachers may find it useful to read [Building Good Relations with People of Different Faiths and Beliefs](#), which member bodies of IFN sign up to when they become members. This sets out important ground rules for all inter faith encounter.

4) INTER FAITH WEEK

This resource could be used during Inter Faith Week, along with other resources for primary schools that NATRE developed for the Week, which are to be found at:

www.interfaithweek.org/resources/schools.

Inter Faith Week is a programme of the Inter Faith Network for the UK.

Inter Faith Week is in the second week of November, timed to begin on Remembrance Sunday. Many schools participate in the Week and pupils may wish to hold their own activity connected to their learning through this resource.

If your pupils do activities for Inter Faith Week, we would be pleased to know. If you tweet about them or put them on Facebook or Instagram, the hashtag is #InterFaithWeek.

5) STATUS OF EXAMPLES

The resource points to a number of resources linked to Inter Faith Network member bodies and other sources. There are many such materials available and those included are in no way exhaustive.

IFN’s member body list and other resources on its website www.interfaith.org.uk will take you to other useful materials.

The links provided are to materials of independent organisations. IFN takes no responsibility for their content – as it stands at this time or as it may evolve. The links may change over time. They are correct at November 2019 and will be checked periodically. If you find any that do not work, please do let us know so that we can replace them.

The resource covers a broad range of faith traditions in the UK and this is reflected across the resource as a whole, not in every unit.

6) COPYRIGHT

This resource, comprised of, the Teacher Introduction and Units 1–4, is copyright the Inter Faith Network for the UK 2019, except for the linked materials, which are covered by the copyright of the organisations that have produced those resources.

The Inter Faith Network for the UK encourages learning about inter faith activity in all education settings. This resource is intended for schools to use and may be reproduced and adapted by teachers to enable pupils to learn about inter faith

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The Inter Faith Network for the UK would like to thank all those involved in the development of this resource: IFN member bodies which responded to a request for materials or provided concept feedback, including contacts at the Religious Education Council for England and Wales and the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE); IFN Trustees and Faith Communities Forum members who had the opportunity to look at the material; RE Hub leads in Learn, Teach, Lead RE (LTLRE) Area 1; schools which piloted the resource; and a number of individuals who offered valuable advice.

IFN is also grateful to all funders of its work, of which this project forms an important part. These include the Ministry of Communities and Local Government, Trusts, faith communities and individual donors.

FEEDBACK

We hope that your school finds this resource helpful. The materials may be updated in due course to ensure that links and content are up to date, the IFN office welcomes feedback on both, as well as on the experience of using the resource. You can email these to ifnet@interfaith.org.uk marked 'Schools material feedback' in the subject line. Thank you.

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