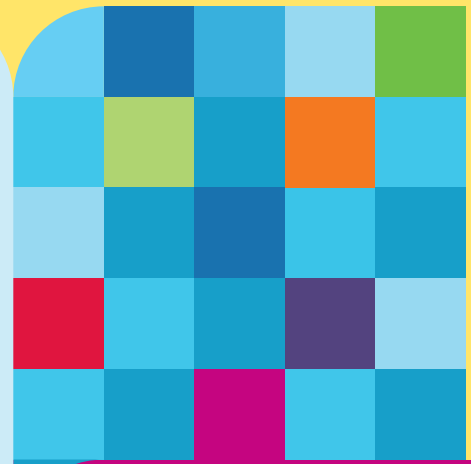


## Learning about inter faith activity

A primary resource  
for pupils aged 9–11



### UNIT 4

# Team spirit – inter faith sport



**Teacher note:** This unit of work is intended as an introduction for pupils learning about sport and inter faith activity in the UK; it is intended to be used after pupils have completed Units 1a *Religious diversity in the UK and the Importance of inter faith activity* and 1b *Introducing inter faith activity*. Teachers should consult the *Teacher introduction* before using this unit as a basis for curriculum planning.

The unit is intended to enable pupils to learn about an example of a place where inter faith activity might take place outside of a specifically religious context.

**This unit follows a simple progression:**



**About the unit**

Sport and physical exercise are among the most widespread and enjoyable activities. This unit is aimed at helping pupils to understand that many people of faith play or watch sport and it's a great way of meeting people of different backgrounds and developing friendships. Sport also provides a context where people encounter others they may not otherwise meet. Sometimes these opportunities are specially planned to promote inter faith encounter. In this way sport provides a context in which people can learn more about each other's beliefs and understand how those beliefs make a difference to their lives.

**Vocabulary**

Inter faith, healthy living, community building.

**Expectations**

**At the end of this unit**

**Most pupils:** will know that inter faith encounter happens in settings that are not necessarily designed as spaces for that purpose; that sport is one way that people come together from different faith backgrounds; and that there are sporting events that are specifically designed to promote good inter faith relations. They will have considered how sport brings people together and can be an activity through which people can develop trust and friendship with people of different backgrounds.

**Some pupils:** will not have made so much progress they will be able to talk about how sport contributes to people coming together and that sport can be used to promote inter faith relations.

**Some pupils:** will have progressed further and will understand how sport cuts across community boundaries and be able to give examples and identify ways that sporting bodies and activity can make a contribution to improving inter faith relations in society.

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.



LEARNING OBJECTIVES Pupils should learn...	POSSIBLE TEACHING ACTIVITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That sport has the power to bring people together across a number of boundaries.</li> </ul>	<p>Pupils could talk about the sports and games they are involved in and teams that they support. They could explore how sports teams themselves are often diverse and how people from different backgrounds work together to get the best result for their team. They might discuss how a sports player’s religious belief and practice might be relevant to their participation: for example, religious observances such as prayer, festivals and <a href="#">fasting</a>. They could also explore how some players believe that their faith inspires their performance.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That local religious leaders are using games like cricket and football to build and demonstrate inter faith friendship.</li> </ul>	<p>Pupils could research how religious leaders have wanted to show members of their communities that inter faith encounter and cooperation are important and have used sport to signal that – as well as to have fun. Examples that pupils could look at are the <a href="#">Yorkshire and Lancashire cricket match</a> which included imams and priests on both sides and the <a href="#">imams and priests football league</a> in Leicester, which brings together clergy.</p> <p>There have also been high profile international inter faith sporting events, such as the <a href="#">Vatican’s XI</a> touring England to play cricket to strengthen inter faith relations.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That sports can bring people together who might not otherwise meet to help them develop friendships and understanding.</li> </ul>	<p>Pupils could research <a href="#">Burnley FC’s Building Bridges Community Cup</a>, which brings together teams from across different communities to build better inter faith understanding. <a href="#">Islington’s Peace Cup</a> is another example.</p> <p>Pupils could discuss why having mixed inter faith teams could help build good relationships between communities.</p> <p>Pupils could investigate the <a href="#">Unity Cricket Tournament</a> held in Slough to build good relations between the Sikh and Muslim communities.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That sport and physical exercise can engage people from across communities in fun ways to help them become healthier whilst meeting their specific religious needs. In that process it becomes an opportunity to develop inter faith friendship and understanding.</li> </ul>	<p>Pupils could learn about the Women and inter faith sport: <a href="#">The Women’s Sports Programme Manchester</a> (WSPM). This brings together women from different religious backgrounds to improve their health, develop inter faith knowledge and understanding, and to help the building of friendships.</p> <p>Pupils could explore the programme run by <a href="#">Arsenal in the Community</a> for schools from different communities around London where pupils can learn about each other’s faiths and beliefs. Secondary school pupils from different schools work together jointly to deliver presentations to primary school pupils on an aspect of faith and belief, such as key festivals.</p>

LEARNING OUTCOMES Pupils should be able to	POINTS TO NOTE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talk about the ways that sport can bring people of different backgrounds together in ways they might not otherwise meet, giving an example from their learning.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explain how religious leaders can use sport to signal that working with other people of faith is important for society.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss how sport can be an opportunity for people of faith and how particular projects can bring people together from across the religious spectrum to help improve health and inter faith knowledge and understanding.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write a small article on how sport can help inter faith understanding and friendship.</li> </ul>	<p>Before pupils start this exercise teachers might want to point them to the Inter Faith Network’s website: <a href="http://www.interfaith.org.uk/activity/sport">www.interfaith.org.uk/activity/sport</a></p>

### TEACHER NOTE

Teachers will find it useful to look at the report: [Using the Power of Sport to Build Good Inter Faith Relations](#) published by the Inter Faith Network in 2018 as background to teaching this unit. The report gives examples of the different ways that sport has helped build inter faith relations and these can be used as case studies to support pupils’ learning. Some of the examples from the report are included above. The report follows an event held jointly with Sporting Equals UK.

## NOTES

**Using the Power of Sport to Build Good Inter Faith Relations** is a publication of the Inter Faith Network in association with Sporting Equals UK

**Fasting** is a common religious activity and for some a form of strict observance at specific times of the religious year.

**Yorkshire and Lancashire clergy cricket match** and **the Leicester imams and priests football league** are examples of the ways that religious leaders have come together to use sport as a way of signalling the importance of encounter with people of other faiths and a way of showing that people of difference can not only work together but also engage in enjoyable activities.

**Vatican's XI**, or St Peter's Cricket Club, is a group of Catholic priests and seminarians in Rome who use Cricket as a way of engaging with other people of other denominations and faiths.

**Burnley FC's Building Bridges Community Cup**, **Islington's Peace Cup** and the **Unity Cricket Tournament** are examples of local inter faith initiatives which use sport to bring communities together to build better understanding and relationships for the good of the local community as a whole.

**Women and inter faith sport: The Women's Sports Programme Manchester (WSPM)** started as a partnership between the Council of Christians and Jews and Near Neighbours and was taken forward by FODIP (Forum for Discussion of Israel and Palestine) as a way of bringing together women from different communities. There are two main aims: to build inter faith and intercommunal relationships and to provide a space for women to play sport and take part in physical exercise together.

**Arsenal in the Community** is the club's Community Department. Established in 1985, the team deliver a wide range of sport, social and education programmes in north London and beyond. Many sports clubs have similar departments.

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](http://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 all or any one of the individual units.