

Religious Education visits and speakers

West Yorkshire

Enriching Religious Education and promoting understanding

PENNINE LEARNING

SCHOOLS WELCOME!

Leeds for Learning

Empowering solutions, **inspiring** learners

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Introduction : Building better understanding

This guide and directory has been prepared to support schools planning visits to or from faith communities. Dialogue between students and people of faith enriches religious education, nurtures tolerance and builds bridges of understanding within our local communities.

Engagement can take the form of a visit to a faith community or receiving a visitor in an assembly, class or special event. Many places of worship are offering online material and virtual tours – this has been noted in their entry. Others are developing their resources in this area, so it is worth checking.

Many schools find it invaluable to arrange such dialogue to help students to broaden their understanding and experience of our communities and world. The benefits include:

- enriching religious education and fulfilling requirements of the local agreed syllabus;
- promoting fundamental human values of respect and tolerance;
- broadening pupils' experience and perspectives;
- developing critical thinking;
- building bridges within our local communities.

The **Schools Welcome!** project aims to support and facilitate this engagement through:

- encouraging and supporting **educational visits** to and from faith communities as part of religious education and SMSC development;
- producing a **directory of contacts** in West Yorkshire and beyond;
- providing **training and support** for faith communities that offer this service.

Faith Communities that have completed training and gained the 'Schools Welcome!' award are marked in the list.

See page 25 for further details.

How to use this directory

This directory is provided to help schools contact faith communities. Such engagement can enrich students' religious education and enhance awareness, understanding and tolerance of religious diversity in our region.

The directory covers a wide geographical area around West Yorkshire beyond. It includes individuals who are willing to come into school to support your work and bring some direct engagement with faith communities. It also includes some general information about places and organisations.

The list is only as good as the information offered and received. We know there are many gaps! We welcome additions and suggestions from schools, faith communities and individuals. Please contact enquiries@penninelearning.com if you would like to offer or suggest ideas to share with colleagues.

You can make contact directly with local places of worship. Anglican and Roman Catholic churches operate parish systems where there is always a local church with pastoral responsibility for the local community. It is generally easy to make contact directly or, if necessary, through the Anglican Diocese of Leeds www.achurchnearyou.com or the Roman Catholic Diocese of Leeds www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk

We are very clear that the purpose of visits envisaged here is to support the education of young people, not in any way to persuade or proselytise. However, we hope that direct engagement with people of faith will enliven and inspire pupils' thinking so they can make their own judgments and develop their own understanding. Guidance has been written locally and is available in all three local authorities. It can also be downloaded from www.penninelearning.com.

Although due care has been taken to check that individuals and organisations are appropriate and bona fide, it is not possible for us to conduct safeguarding or quality assurance checks in a comprehensive way. *Please be clear that is the responsibility of individual schools to undertake normal safeguarding and quality assurance procedures for themselves.* However, we are very happy to have your feedback which will help us to ensure this list is as useful and up-to-date as possible.

Any arrangements should be made directly with the people on this list. We're sorry we are not able to undertake a booking service on behalf of schools. It is also up to schools to check any financial arrangements. Many of the people and organisations do not make a charge. In other cases, they are commercial organisations or individual people whose livelihood derives from this educational work. We have indicated where charges are likely. Even where these visits are pro bono, it is always appropriate to offer travel and incidental expenses.

Useful guidance has also been published by the National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE). It can be found on their website natre.org.uk.

Updated July 2025

Baha'i

John Butterfield is a retired Senior Educational Psychologist, with extensive school experience at all phases.
Contact: 01422 881230 and 07799 801417 or e-mail john.butterfield20@gmail.com.

Ramona Cleasby is a counsellor in the Health Service with extensive experience in primary schools.
Dr Steven Cleasby is a GP with experience of primary and secondary schools, as well as youth groups.
Contact: via John Butterfield as above

Buddhism

Jamyang Buddhist and Meditation Centre, Leeds
Clyde Works, Ingram Rd, Leeds LS11 9RQ
The Centre offers an education programme to enrich classroom learning about Buddhism. Teachers can choose from these options:
Path One - A visit to the centre including a tour of the building, a short talk in the gompa in front of the shrine and a "Question Time" session with a member of the community
Path Two - An Online Event via Zoom/Teams with a member of the community, including a virtual video tour, a look at objects and practices, and the opportunity to ask questions.
Path Three - A bespoke session based on your specific requirements.
Contact: eduvisits@jamyangleeds.co.uk
Website: www.jamyangleeds.co.uk

Vajrapani Kadampa Meditation Centre, Huddersfield
Wheathouse Terrace, Huddersfield, HD2 2UY
The centre offers well-organised, thoughtful visits for all ages, including an introduction to Buddhist teaching and daily life. Visits are usually on Tuesdays and Wednesdays -other days by arrangement. Coach drop off and public transport links available on Wheathouse Rd.
Contact: direct to book school visits 01484 943119 or admin@meditateinhuddersfield.org
Website: www.meditateinhuddersfield.org

Kagyu Dechen Dzong Buddhist Centre, Harrogate
Offer help with delivering Buddhism in the classroom. Happy to meet individual or small groups of teachers or subject leaders of RE on a one-off or on-going basis.
Contact: Howard Quinn at howard.quinn@dechen.org or 01423 881647/07462 758353
Website: www.yorkshirebuddhistcommunity.com (local) and www.lamajampa.org (wider)

Manchester Buddhist Centre
16-20 Turner St, Manchester M4 1DZ
Many school and college students come to our centre each year to explore Buddhism and see the centre at work. We offer guided tours with discussion, questions and answers and guided meditation. Each visit will meet the needs of each group. We can also offer a Buddhist visitor in your school for assemblies or classroom for primary to AS/A2 Level. We also welcome community groups.
Website: www.manchesterbuddhistcentre.org.uk
Contact: groupvisits@manchesterbuddhistcentre.org.uk or 0161 834 9232

Christianity

You can contact your local church. The churches below offer a particular service to schools:

Calderdale Churches

Halifax Minster
Halifax Minster has a varied education programme led by our Clergy and Minster volunteers. Schools are invited to explore, experience, and learn by taking part in workshops that celebrate our magnificent 12th Century church. We also encourage self – directed visits which can also be supported by the Education Team. Workshops last 1½-2hrs and cost £3 per child with a minimum charge of £60. Self-led tours £20.
Contact: education@halifaxminster.org.uk
Website: www.halifaxminster.org.uk

St John Warley and St Hilda Halifax
Halifax HX2 7LY
Visits available Monday to Friday for primary and secondary schools. Aspect of the RE syllabus can be addressed in bespoke visits as well as spirituality and prayer events.
Contact: John White (Warden) jaandrw@btinternet.com
Website: https://stjohnschurchwarley.wixsite.com/stjohn

Bethel Methodist Chapel
42 Carr House Road, Halifax HX3 7QY ·
Bethel Methodist Chapel is an independent chapel founded in 1853. The building retains most of its original features and is available for school parties to visit. Our facilities are accessible for all and we have a large car park. Over three floors the building includes amongst other things, the original worship space, pulpit and vestry. Our grade 2 listing recognises the chapel's heritage including its ornate plaster and lime ceiling upstairs. Throughout the building there are many of the original fittings. Our graveyard contains many interesting graves, including that of Joseph Hobson Jagger, the only man ever to break the bank at Monte Carlo.
Contact: Robert Fox 07950531949 bethelchapelshelf@gmail.com

Mount Zion Methodist Heritage Chapel
Per Lane, Upper Brockholes, Ogden, Halifax HX2 8XG
Our learning outside the classroom offer at Mount Zion reflects the locally Agreed RE Syllabus . Sessions are cross curricular, incorporating history, geography, art, English, citizenship and SMSC and reflect the diverse nature of British society in the 21st century. All visits are led by qualified teachers and usually last 1 hour, 30 minutes.

Primary – Foundation, Key Stage 1 and 2
Young children are welcome to explore this special space, to experience the objects, sights and sounds and discover the stories that the building tells. Opportunities are provided for children to reflect and respond creatively to their experience. Activities are differentiated according to age. Possible curriculum focus: RE, History, English, Citizenship, Art.

Secondary – Key Stage 3 and 4 and Post 16
Our secondary school provision may include key elements of GCSE RE programmes of study if required and opportunities to explore historical and contemporary responses to issues of social justice; encouraging students to contemplate difficult questions about Christianity, different world religions, worldviews and to reflect and respond creatively to being in a unique space. Possible curriculum focus: RE, History, English, Citizenship, Art.

You can find out more here: https://mountzion.cmch.org.uk/learning-outside-the-classroom
To book a visit please contact the Heritage Officer:
Telephone: 07958 759805
Contact: heritage@calderdalemethodistcircuit.org.uk

Kirklees Churches

Dewsbury Minster
Rishworth Road, Dewsbury, WF12 8DD
The Minster Church of All Saints, Dewsbury offers visits reflecting its rich history and its present-day service to the community as it feeds those in need on a daily basis. Directly opposite Dewsbury Bus station, providing easy access via public transport.
Contact: rev.caroline14@gmail.com 01924 467057
Website: www.dewsburyminster.org.uk

Huddersfield Parish Church
Byram Street, Huddersfield, HD1 1BU. 01484 427964
St Peter's Church offers well-structured visits for all ages. It is a short walk from Huddersfield Rail and Bus stations, and its central location allows for the possibility of a two-centre visit to include the Hindu Mandir or Sikh Gurdwara. Cost £75.
Contact: office@huddersfiedparishchurch.org
Website: www.huddersfieldparishchurch.org

St Saviour's Church, Ravensthorpe
Huddersfield Road, Ravensthorpe, WF13 3JR
St Saviour's is in the "high church" tradition of the Church of England, so there is plenty for visiting groups to see, touch and smell! We divide the children into small groups and deliver short talks at various stations throughout the building on the main aspects of Christian life and worship - baptism, communion, the bible, prayer and liturgy. We encourage questions and participation using the 'kit' we have in the Church (bells, candles, incense, vestments, etc). Visits by arrangement with Mrs Gwyneth Brooke – Tuesdays, Wednesdays (pm) and Thursdays.
Contact: Mrs Gwyneth Brooke: 07813479508 gmmbrooke@icloud.com

Huddersfield Methodist Circuit
Huddersfield Methodist Circuit welcomes invitations to work with schools; offering Collective Worship, support with RE lessons, Godly Play, festivals (other RE) workshops, and visits to places of worship.
Contact: Suzanne Bridges (Circuit Children's Work and Project Enabler) offers Godly play sessions and other RE support for KS1/2. suzhmc@gmail.com
Chris Mason (Circuit Youth Advisor and Digital Enabler) offers RE support for KS3/4. cgmason47@hotmail.co.uk
Website: www.huddersfieldmethodists.org.uk

Lepton Methodist Church
The Square, Highgate Lane, Lepton, HD8 0HB.
Lepton Methodist Church offers assemblies to local schools and welcomes school visits for activities and workshops at Christian Festivals and other times.
Contact: revsuepegg@outlook.com

Gledholt Methodist Church
Edgerton Rd, Huddersfield
The church offers festival visits for primary schools including songs, story and crafts.
Contact: revsuepegg@outlook.com

United Church Kirkheaton (Methodist and URC)
New Rd, Kirkheaton
School visits welcome.
Contact: revsuepegg@outlook.com

Shepley Methodist Church
Lane Head Road, Shepley, HD8 8DB
School visits welcome.
Contact: revsuepegg@outlook.com

Holy Trinity Church, Trinity St, Huddersfield HD1 4DT
Holy Trinity Huddersfield is an Anglican (Church of England) church close to the town centre. We have a long history of work with children and young people, and would love to welcome class groups of any age to explore our 200 year-old building, to learn about how we worship God, and how we express our faith in seeking to share God's love with our town.
We can host whole-class sessions (KS1, KS2, KS3) any day of the week based on themes of your choice, including: Christian festivals, what Christians believe, how we worship, the Bible, sharing faith, caring for our neighbour etc. There is no charge to visit Holy Trinity.
Contact: 01483 513213 office@holytrinityhuddersfield.com
Website: Holy Trinity Church, Huddersfield

St John the Evangelist
St John's Rd Birkby HD1 5EA
This fine Victorian Church offers a maths Trail and presentations on all aspects of Christianity under the SACRE Curriculum. Cost: £1 per head.
Contact: Peter Prasadam pprasadam2@gmail.com

The Salvation Army (Huddersfield)
New Hey Road, Oakes, HD3 4BZ
The Salvation Army has a rich heritage of practical service 'Faith in Action', within the local community. Experienced hosts are prepared to introduce pupils to some of the joys and challenges of working in the community. The modern church building enables pupils to make comparisons with the features and practices associated with other places of worship. Visits welcome from all ages.
Contact: Majors Adrian & Christine Lee 01484 654484 adrian.lee@salvationarmy.org.uk

Huddersfield Quaker meeting house
34 Church St, Paddock, Huddersfield HD1 4TR
Visits to the meeting house and visitors to school by arrangement.
Phone: 01484 664290
Contact: Mike Casey mike40casey@gmail.com

Wakefield Churches

Community of the Resurrection
Stocks Bank Rd, Mirfield WF14 0BN
Visits offered by arrangement.
Contact: community@mirfield.org.uk 01924 494318
Website: https://mirfield.org.uk/

Longcauseway Church (United Reformed and Methodist), Dewsbury
Princess of Wales Precinct, Dewsbury, WF13 1NH
We are happy to help young people explore what happens in baptism, wedding and funeral services and to explore the elements of Christian worship. Rev Dr David (a former school chaplain) is happy to assist in RE lessons by arrangement. Visits as above are also welcome at **Batley Central Methodist Church** and **Trinity Methodist Church**, Mirfield. Short walk from Dewsbury Bus station, providing easy access via public transport.
Contact: revdrdavidbarker@protonmail.com 07591582848 (Office)
Website: www.longcauseway.org.uk

Leeds Churches

Leeds Minster
St Peters House, Kirkgate, Leeds LS2 7DJ
Leeds Minster is built on the earliest site of Christian worship in Leeds and has the 10th century Leeds Cross. We welcome teacher led visits by prior arrangement and also offer very able volunteers to work with you to deliver whatever learning outcomes you require. We offer space for desk-based work as well as toilets and bag storage and refreshments if required.
Contact: 0113 245 2036 contact@leedsminster.org
Website: www.leedsminster.org

Leeds Cathedral - The Catholic Cathedral Church of St Anne
St Anne's St, Leeds LS2 8BE
Leeds Cathedral was built in the city centre in 1904, a 10-minute walk from Leeds Train Station. The only UK Cathedral designed in the Arts & Crafts style, Grade 2* listed. The beautiful interior is highly decorated and includes relics of three C16 Yorkshire martyrs. School parties are very welcome. Teacher resources can be found here to facilitate self-led tours. Experienced guides are available to book (no charge). We can offer space for coats and bags, and a room for lunch by prior arrangement. Weekday worship (Mass) is at 12.30pm and lasts about 30 minutes. You are welcome to participate or observe but tours cannot take place during this time.
Contact: Angeline McClelland, Cathedral Administrator, office.cathedral@dioceseofleeds.org.uk
Or complete the online booking form
Website: https://www.dioceseofleeds.org.uk/cathedral/

Cornerstone Baptist Church
1 South Parade Headingley, Collingham LS6 3LF
Able to offer church visits and also offer: Rewind to Christmas, Rewind to Easter and 'It's your Move'.
Contact: info@cbcl.org.uk 0113 275 4989
Website: www.spbc.org.uk

Gateway Church, Leeds
St Mark's Church, St Mark's Road, Leeds, LS2 9AF
School visits for primary and secondary schools by arrangement. Online visits offered.
Contact: Chris.frost@gatewayleeds.net 0113 2443245/07717 825864

Website: www.gatewayleeds.net

Other local Christian organisations

Christian Initiative in Calderdale Schools (CICS)
CICS (Christians in Calderdale Schools) serves both primary and secondary schools/academies on behalf of the churches of Calderdale. We are a mix of volunteers and employed workers. The team also includes a project manager. We are available to support schools with assemblies and collective worship. We deliver imaginative and thought-provoking presentations on both Christianity and British Values where requested. We support the Bible Society's 'Open the Book' scheme which uses interactive drama to bring the stories of the Bible to life. Aimed at primary schools it is usually delivered in collective worship settings. Question Point is an informal voluntary lunchtime activity. It consists of an SMSC question. Students are invited to respond to an open-ended questions such as 'What gives you hope in life?' In addition, CICS offer lesson deliveries and workshop sessions in RE/Ethics and PSHE. One of our most popular requests are for Faith panels which consist of around five Christians from different organisations who answer questions about faith posed by students.
Contact: Robert Fox (CICS Project Manager) 07950531949 robert@cicscalderdale.org.uk
office@cicscalderdale.org.uk
Website: www.cicscalderdale.org.uk

Godly Play Storytelling
Godly Play is a creative and imaginative approach to RE that invites children to participate in the meaning and wonder found in stories from the Judeo-Christian tradition. Based upon Montessori principles, it uses symbols and objects as well as words to help children make connections. It is a strategy recommended in the local Agreed Syllabus 'Believing and Belonging'. Godly Play offer Christian Aid Collective Worship/Lessons for the Leeds area. Christian Aid availability for primary/secondary and special schools based in Leeds
Contact: Denise Brogden Denise.Brogden@leeds.anglican.org

Hand to Mouth
Hand to Mouth is a Christian charity that works in primary schools in Kirklees, Leeds and Calderdale, enabling children to explore Christianity and reflect on their own spiritual journey. Hand to Mouth come into schools to lead RE Days, assemblies, Godly Play and Spiritual Journeys. Online Collective worship recordings are available. Charges approximately £200 a day.
Contact: office@handtomouth.org.uk 01484 315600/07586346799
Website: www.handtomouth.org.uk

Carlton Hill Quaker Meeting House
Visits welcome, by arrangement.
Contact: Pauline Leonard 07931841527 paulineleonard92@gmail.com
Website: Peace education | Quakers in Britain

Hindu Dharma

Hindu Temple
20 Zetland St, Huddersfield , HD1 2RA
Visits can be arranged on most days. The temple welcomes all ages, offering group activities, personal reflections and music as part of the learning experience.
Contact: Kiran Bali huddersfieldmandir@googlemail.com 07944 335855
Website: www.huddersfieldmandir.org

Hindu temple visits (Leeds)
Visits to several Hindu temples in Leeds can be arranged by the local Hindu Education Board. Faith visitors are also available to visit schools to support RE teaching about Hindu Dharma.
Contact: devi.italiya@hotmail.com 07515117165
Website: northeastzone@insightuk.org

Hindu Temple
36 Alexandra Road, Leeds LS6 1RF
Visits welcome by arrangement. Morning service takes place every day at 10.30am; visitors may watch and then take part in a question answer time.
Contact: Sangeeta Sharma 07906 601095 or Saroj Chauhan saroj_1957@hotmail.com 07999486328
Direct contact for temple: 0113 275 7024

BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir
1 Weaver Street, Leeds, LS4 2AU
Visits welcome by arrangement.
Contact: Girish Sonigra info.leeds@uk.baps.org

Shree Lakshmi Narayan Hindu Temple
341 Leeds Road, Bradford BD3 9LS
School visits welcome by arrangement. Offers visits to all areas of West Yorkshire, this can be at place of worship and in schools too. Also offers virtual visits.
Contact: Bradford Interfaith team interfaith@bradford.gov.uk

Shree Bharatiya Mandal - Indian Association Tameside
103 Union Rd, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 8JN
The Ambaji Hindu Mandir (Temple) at Indian Association Tameside, welcomes schools or other faculties of education on a guided tour of our place of worship. Visits available to schools.
Charges: Donation welcome.
Website: https://sbm.org.uk/
Contact: Dinesh Chauhan dineshelenchauhan@gmail.com or sbm@sbm.org.uk

Humanism

Humanists UK offer free, trained, and experienced volunteers who can help you and your school. Using their life experience and knowledge, School Speakers can bring a personal dimension to young people's study of humanism that goes 'beyond the textbook'. They can:

- Talk about humanism and take part in a Q&A in an assembly or in the classroom
- Share their personal experiences, beliefs, and values and explain what being a humanist means
- Give a humanist perspective on a contemporary debate (e.g. assisted dying, wealth and poverty, prejudice and discrimination)
- Contribute to a specialist day (i.e. 'collapsed' or 'off timetable' day) for a whole-year group
- Work directly with teachers by providing specialist information or material

https://humanism.org.uk/education/teachers/request-volunteer-school

Local Humanist Contacts:

Hannah McKerchar (Kirklees SACRE, Humanists UK School Speaker, Humanist Celebrant)
Contact: theonelifewehave@gmail.com

Ian Harris (Leeds): imharris66@gmail.com or 07588537516
Dermot Bolton: dermot1970@gmail.com or 07811 197053
Rob Billson: rbbillson@gmail.com (Humanist Speaker) or 07540 888641
Teaching resources: https://understandinghumanismorg.uk/ and https://assembliesforall.org.uk

Islam

Calderdale Islamic visitors

Dr Fiaz Farooq
Member of Calderdale SACRE and local GP.
Available to offer sessions to primary and secondary school pupils about Islam, the Arabic language and culture.
Contact: fiazf@yahoo.com

Kirklees mosques and visitors

Dawatal Islam Masjid
West Acre Drive, Soothill, Batley, WF17 6PE
School visits welcome by arrangement. Up to 60 pupils may be accommodated; visits are well-organised and interactive.

Contact: Suleman Aswat (Chairman) sulemanaswat@hotmail.co.uk 07736-871173
Email: dawatalislam.mosque@gmail.com

Zakariya Mosque, Savile Town
Kumon Yall offers school workshops and mosque visits in the Dewsbury area. A number of Imams in the network are available to take assemblies, Q and A sessions and workshops on social and religious issues, particularly aimed at secondary age pupils. Mosque visits are based at Zakariya Mosque, Savile Town; the visit includes lively, interactive activities, Q and A and refreshments. No charge, but donations welcome.
Contact: 01924 461427

Huddersfield Council of Mosques
HCoM is an umbrella body that represents the mosques in Huddersfield and the Muslim community of Huddersfield. Visits can be arranged to mosques in the Huddersfield area.
Contact: info@hcom.org.uk
Website: www.hcom.org.uk

Jamia Masjid Noor
Crosland Road, Thornton Lodge, Huddersfield, HD1 3JS
The mosque welcomes visits from up to 60 pupils. Sessions are exceptionally well-organised including a wide range of activities. Visits to schools can also be arranged. There is no charge for visits.
Contact: Juwariah Rasul visit@jamiamasjidnoor.co.uk
Website: www.jamiamasjidnoor.com

Al-Hidayah Mosque
Caledonian Rd, Dewsbury
School Visits by arrangement. Visits include interactive learning, question and answer sessions as well as a tour of the mosque.
Contact: Kaushar Tai kaushartai@hotmail.com 07813 811914

Baitul Ata Mosque
Garnett Street, Dewsbury, WF13 4AT
The mosque welcomes visits from all ages - children and adults alike.

Contacts: Mr Arif Ahmad arifahmad01@aol.com 07546272211, Mr Slahudin Mir slahudin18@gmail.com

Ahmadiyya Muslim Association (Huddersfield)
Baitus Samad Mosque, 41 Lower Fitzwilliam Street, Huddersfield HD1 6AS
Visits to schools or to mosque arranged, including information about charitable work. Presentations available on any topic related to Islam or any contemporary issues.
Contacts: Fatihul Haq 07547 870197 fatihul-haq@hotmail.co.uk
Munir Ahmed 07789 398494 munir-ahmed@hotmail.co.uk

Masjid-e-Umar Mosque
North View, Savile Town, Dewsbury
School Visits by arrangement. Visits include a tour of the mosque and the building, history of the mosque and the community, interactive learning and question and answer sessions.
Contacts: Mohammed Musa 07884313417 info@masjideumar.co.uk

Leeds mosques

UKIM Leeds (Iqra Centre and The Lingfield Centre), 4-6 Carr Manor Cres, Leeds LS17 5DH
School visits welcomed.
Contact: Eatsam Ahmed Danish admin@iqracentre.org.uk 07735-533703

Leeds Grand Mosque
9 Woodsley Road Leeds LS6 1SN
School visits offer a variety of activities and resources. Volunteers visit schools to conduct school assemblies and also provide classroom-based workshops and presentations.
Contact: 01132468789 contact@leedsgrandmosque.com
Website: www.leedsgrandmosque.com

Jamia Masjid Abu Huraira, Catherine Grove, Beeston, Leeds LS11 6LU
School visits to masjid welcome. Also offers visits to schools to enhance learning about Islam in an assembly or class setting. Display and exhibits available. Can help to organise a panel of interfaith speakers to talk about faith and wider duties to community.
Contact: Faisar at kmwa.leeds@hotmail.com

Greater Manchester mosques

Ashton Central Mosque
Welcomes school visits. Interactive presentations linked to the age and needs of pupils. Normally 2 hour morning sessions. Free of charge; donation welcome.
Website: www.ashtoncentralmsoque.com
Contact: Nabeela Akram nabeela.akram@ashtoncentralmosque.com

Other local Islamic organisations

Equilibria: Explore Islam Workshops, Assemblies and Mosque Visits

Equilibria Experience is a West Yorkshire-based charity committed to encouraging a better understanding of Islam through interactive pupil workshops, assemblies and mosque visits. Workshops include: Exploring Islamic artefacts, Calligraphy (with bamboo pens and water based ink),

Islam and Nature, Diversity, and many more. Workshops are currently offered online with accompanying artefacts and resources delivered to schools in advance.

Website: www.equilibriaexperience.org.uk and www.equilibria.org.uk

Contact: contact@equilibriaexperience.org.uk and contact@equilibria.org.uk

Huddersfield Community First

HDC First offers workshops, school assemblies and bespoke training and presentations for students and staff. Topics include: Introduction to Islam, sensitivities when working with Muslim children, Ramadan, Islamophobia and others. HDC First is a non-profit organisation.
Contact: info@hdcfirst.org.uk 01484 767666

Bushra Taslim Hussain
Author and Illustrator of My Islam A-Z - a picture book to teach people of all faiths and ages about Islam. Bushra is available to present to primary and secondary schools - she can speak generally about Islam or target the presentation to the topic that is being covered in class. As a self-published author, she can also speak about her publishing journey and the stages of producing a book, including the full artwork. Q and A sessions are welcomed as part of the presentation. Please enquire for cost of session.
Contact: hello@islamicbeginnings.com 07784 821932
Website: www.islamicbeginnings.com **Social media:** @islamicbeginnings

Muslim Learner Services

Muslim Learner Services visits schools (in-person or virtually) and supports primary schools with Islam assemblies, pupil workshops, staff training and Islam teaching resources. Resources can be found at https://www.islamresources.co.uk/
Website and bookings: https://muslimlearnerservices.org/

You and Me Publications
You and Me Publications is founded by a local teacher with over a decade of teaching experience. Their innovative storybooks and educational resources are designed to make learning about Islam fun and interactive for young learners. They offer to visit schools, offering sensory story reads, interactive activity sessions, assemblies, as well as Q&A sessions to provide students with a first-hand lived experience with a Muslim author.
Website: www.youandmepublications.com
Contact: youandmepublications@gmail.com 07856 609 169

Judaism

Sinai Synagogue, Leeds (Reform)
Roman Avenue, Leeds. LS8 2AN
School visits welcome by arrangement and can be tailored to your priorities
Contact: caroladams499@gmail.com 0113 266 2656
Website: www.sinaileeds.uk

United Hebrew Congregation, Leeds (Orthodox)
151 Shadwell Lane, Leeds, LS17 8DW
School visits welcome by arrangement.
Contact: Sue Graham sue.dorsey@ntlworld.com
Website: www.uhcleeds.com

Etz Chaim Synagogue, Leeds (Orthodox)
411 Harrogate Road, Leeds LS17 7BY
School visits welcome by arrangement.
Contact: admin@etzchaim.co.uk or 0113 2662214

Beth Hamedrash Hagadol (Orthodox)
399 Street Lane, Leeds LS17 6HQ
School visits welcome by arrangement.
Contact: office@bhhs.co.uk or 0113 2692181

Bradford Reform Synagogue
7a Bowland Street, Bradford, BD1 3BW
School visits welcome by arrangement.
Contact: Bradford Interfaith team interfaith@bradford.gov.uk

Leeds Jewish Representative Council.
The LJRC is the overarching umbrella organisation for the Jewish community in Leeds and surrounding area. They can signpost to any information or organisations not directly related to synagogue matters (i.e wider cultural or historical information).
Contact: info@ljrc.org 0113 218 5869

Helen Frais
Helen is a former teacher and community worker in the Jewish Community. Pupils are invited to make traditional challah bread whilst exploring the Jewish faith and chatting about aspects of Jewish practice such as Shabbat, festivals and Jewish family life. Bread-making encourages dialogue and introduces a skill. Pupils and staff can take the small challah breads home to share with their families. Bread can be baked in schools with baking facilities or taken home to bake. Helen also offers a resource on Holocaust Education, exploring the experiences of children. There is no charge but a charity donation to the Holocaust Education and Learning Centre https://hcn.org.uk/ would be appreciated. Helen also offers interactive talks and discussions over a wide range of Jewish - related topics in Primary schools across Yorkshire.
Contact: afrais@tiscali.co.uk

Other local Jewish organisations

Manchester Jewish Museum
Cheetham Hill Rd, ½ mile from Victoria Station.
School visits welcome by arrangement.
Website: www.manchesterjewishmuseum.com

Holocaust Centre North
Huddersfield University, Schwann Building
Holocaust Centre North has sessions designed for Year 5 and above. They are designed to deepen students' knowledge and understanding of the causes, consequences, and legacies of the Holocaust. At Holocaust Centre North, this means addressing common misconceptions, fostering critical thinking skills, and highlighting why it is

important to study the Holocaust in the present. By engaging with our collections, students will learn about the history of the Holocaust through the stories of survivors and refugees who made new lives in the North of England.
Contact: hcn@hud.ac.uk 01484 471939
Website: http://www.holocaustcentrenorth.org.uk/

Virtual visits to the Synagogue: A series of free films

A series of films to introduce KS2 and KS3 pupils to the synagogue. Members of the Jewish community in Leeds share their insights into Jewish faith and practice.
Films available here: https://www.penninelearning.com/videos/

Sikhi

Leeds Gurdwaras

Guru Nanak Niskam Sevak Jatha Gurdwara, Leeds
78 Ladypit Lane, Beeston, Leeds LS11 6DP
Welcomes school visits, which are free of charge, donations can be made. Visits include Gurdwara tour with question and answer time, also turban tying and music. The Gurdwara can be reached by public transport and short 10-minute walk.

Contact: Info@gnnsjleeds.com or gsdeagon@gnnsjleeds.com
Website: http://www.gnnsjleeds.com

Virtual visits to the Gurdwara: A series of free films

A series of films to introduce KS2 and KS3 pupils to the gurdwara. Members of the Sikh community in Leeds share their insights into Sikh faith and practice.
Films available here: https://www.penninelearning.com/videos/

The Sikh Temple, Leeds

192 Chapeltown Road, Leeds
Contact: 0113 262 9073/sikhtemplelds@gmail.com or Mr Bhagat Singh 07469 252319/bgtsingh@icloud.com
Website: https://sikhtempleleeds.co.uk/

Other organisations

Bradford Interfaith and Diversity Team

Bradford Interfaith and Diversity Education are a team of faith tutors representing the six major world faiths, able to offer a range of interfaith and diversity services to schools and organisations. They promote respect, tolerance, equality and understanding, by dispelling myths and misunderstandings. They offer: Guided visits to faith settings, faith-Based workshops, virtual visits with follow up Q&A, festival assemblies and regular collective worship assemblies. If transport costs are an issue, they can also offer **virtual visits** to places of worship followed up by a live Q&A session or storytelling with a tutor to the group of learners. They can also offer assemblies, workshops and special festivals during all terms.
Contact: interfaith@bradford.gov.uk
Website: https://skills4bradford.co.uk/Services/5192

Calderdale Cohesion & Equality Team

The team can arrange visits to Mosques in Calderdale. A brief presentation on Islam can be facilitated covering the 5 pillars of Islam. A tour of the Mosque can take place and an open question and answer session can be led. If any school would like to arrange a session for pupils to hear of the main faiths practised in Calderdale including Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Islam, Judaism and Sikhi, this can be delivered at the school. The session will last for 1hr 30mins allowing talks by faith leaders on their faith and an open Q & A session can be facilitated.
Contact: Sail Suleman, Cohesion & Equality Officer (Hate Crime Reduction)
sail.suleman@calderdale.gov.uk 01422 392869

Kirklees Community Cohesion Team

Communities in Kirklees Council may be contacted for faith and community queries.
Contact: Rubina.Bhatti@kirklees.gov.uk Cohesion@kirklees.gov.uk (general queries)

Community Cohesion Initiative: Joint Q and A sessions

Joint teaching and Q and A sessions are offered to schools by arrangement in order to allow pupils to ask questions and learn how those with different faith perspectives live well together.
Rev Sue Pegg/Maysoon Shafique (EY and KS1)
Imam Farook Yunus/ Rev George Spencer (KS2)
Contact: helen@penninelearning.com

Jo Cox Centre, Huddersfield University

Visits to this multifaith centre welcome by arrangement.
Contact: Ericsson Mapfumo e.mapfumo@hud.ac.uk

Planning a successful visit

A visit will only be as successful as the preparation behind it. This will involve:

- The faith community or organisation
- Your own school's internal processes
- Parents
- Pupils
- Any other teachers or helpers

Most of the suggestions that follow will apply, or be adaptable, to external visits or to receiving a visitor from the community.

Educational content

Although there is value in simply 'getting to know' another part of your community or another faith, it is also critical that there are **specific, shared educational objectives**. Ensure there are clear aims linked to the RE syllabus or other areas of the curriculum and school ethos. Vague aims will result in vague learning. Don't try to learn everything about a world faith in a 2 hour visit.

Discuss and agree these aims with the host of your visit well in advance so you have a shared plan for the content of the day. Agree what role teachers will have and what activities will be led by the host. Behaviour management will always remain the responsibility of the teacher. If possible, arrange to visit the location and discuss the visit directly with your host, also becoming familiar with the physical environment and facilities. If a prior visit is not feasible, ensure there is a full discussion by phone.

Prepare your pupils through prior teaching about the topics and faith to be covered. A visit is not a replacement for ongoing, sequential learning in RE. It is a way of enriching and extending RE, a natural next step on the learning road, not a diversion or entertaining sideline. In particular, it is good to help pupils to prepare some questions and areas to explore well in advance of the visit. Communicate these to your host. This does not prevent spontaneous enquiry on the day but ensures there has been prior thinking. Hosts will generally very much welcome open and frank questions. Courtesy does not mean withholding genuine doubts, questions, fears and uncertainties in an erroneous attempt to avoid giving offence.

Practical arrangements

Clarify any **logistical arrangements**. These may include:

- Precise time and place to meet
- Parking or drop-off and road safety
- Mobile phone numbers in case of delay or difficulty
- Access
- Refreshments
- Toilets

Share any **specific needs** with your host. This may include particular special needs, access or dietary requirements. It will also include preparing a risk assessment. Most localities will have a generic risk assessment that can be made specific to the particular visit.

Make sure you know any specific **protocols for the visit**. For example, covering heads or removing shoes. Check that pupils are aware of these and the reasons for them.

Ascertain what **charges** will be made (if any) or agree any donation. It is always good to make a donation even if no charge is levied. Although school budgets are stretched, volunteers will have given their time freely and the place of worship will have many costs involved to which it seems fair to offer a contribution.

Decide what **help is needed** on the day. It can be good to include some parent helpers, not least as a way of communicating the value and importance of such visits.

Communication

Timely and effective communication is essential in promoting a successful visit.
Share the nature, purpose and content of visit with parents and children at an early stage. This can be included in a newsletter or on the website as well as in a specific information letter.

Heads and teachers will be aware of any **particular sensitivities** within the local or school community. A visit can be an opportunity to move these forward if communication is careful and based on trust.

On a basic level, share **contact details** between the school and organisation. Voluntary organisations, including faith communities, do not always have phones or emails monitored every day, so try to obtain a contact number that is readily accessible, especially on the day.

Appropriate publicity is often helpful and a school may wish to keep a visual record in a scrapbook, on the website or in the newsletter.

Volunteers and communities will always appreciate a **'thankyou'**, especially from the pupils and it is good practice to evaluate the visit together, sharing good practice and ideas to improve for the future.

Visitors to school

Schools often use visitors as well as, or instead of, arranging an external visit. Unless such an occasion is specifically part of the RE curriculum or an act of collective worship, there is no statutory right to withdraw. It can still enable pupils to understand about different people and cultures.

The Faith Visits Contacts list may help with ideas but there will also be local and personal contacts within the school community. If their contribution is supported appropriately, they do not have to have extensive teaching skills or public speaking experience. An interview or prepared questions can be a very effective way of helping pupils to learn about a visitor's faith, culture or experience. This also maintains overall handling of the occasion in the professionals' hands, which may help a visitor and ensure the fluency of the interview or presentation.

There are some key things to consider in planning the visit:

- What are the aims? Have these been discussed and shared with the visitor?
- Ensure the school is managing the event throughout. This will help the visitor as well as you.
- Follow normal safeguarding procedures, while also offering appropriate welcome and hospitality.
- Prepare the pupils, staff and parents; celebrate the occasion and links with the wider community.

It is good to remember that staff (not just teaching staff) and parents may be a source of diverse experience that can be celebrated in school and learnt from by pupils. Sensitivity is needed, and such contributions need to be appropriate to the willingness, confidence and experience of the person concerned. At the same time this participation can affirm and enrich the participant.

Doubts and reluctance

Sometimes parents or carers are reluctant to allow their child to participate on a specific visit. All school visits require parental consent and as a concomitant, parents have a legal right to withhold such consent. While schools must always respect (and be seen to respect) parents' statutory rights, teachers can try to encourage full participation as part of every child's right to a broad and balanced education.

Be aware that parental reluctance may stem from a number of reasons and should not be automatically dismissed as ignorance or prejudice. Although these may be a factor for some, there can also be genuine fears and doubts and it is always good to encourage a parent or carer to articulate their questions and to offer reassurance.

Schools have found some of the ideas below useful in dealing with doubts or in building a culture where visits and visitors are part of the yearly routine and welcomed by all.

- It is good practice to ask to **discuss concerns face to face**. There may be specific reasons why a parent is reluctant to allow consent. A meeting gives the opportunity to reassure and for the parent to think through what is best;

- Be very **clear about the facts** – communicate the nature, purpose and content of the visit at an early stage and continue to do so;

- **Explain the value** of the visit – how and why it will be helpful for pupils and how it links to the curriculum;

- **Celebrate the event** through displays and information on newsletters, website or parents' evenings. Use last year's pictures to help promote this year's event;

- **Link it into a wider school context**, for example as part of a sequence of visits or events that engage with diversity or as a contribution to a wider anti-bullying or tolerance agenda;

- **Communicate the enjoyment** and participation involved. It's a shame if a child misses out on the experience shared by others in the class;

- **Involve parents** – as helpers or through sharing what is happening.

Ideas to use on a school visit to a place of worship

Journey around a place of worship



Plan a journey around the place of worship with three or four key stopping points. Choose and plan each stopping point carefully. Include a short explanation and have any relevant objects/pictures ready. Answer the questions: 'What is this?', 'What happens here?', 'Why is it important?'.

Photographs of each area/artefact being used in worship will help pupils to understand how the building is used by the community. If there are other volunteers to help with the visit, this could be done as a carousel with small groups taking turns to hear about each area.

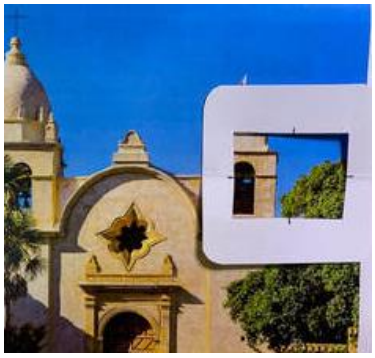
Pictures and photographs

Pictures and photographs make a good starting point for a visit. It is worth laminating pictures that are likely to be used regularly. Here are some easy ideas for using pictures with primary pupils:

- Provide a photo of your place of worship with people in it. Ask the children to talk about what they see happening. What questions do they have? How is it different from the time of the visit (when it is likely to be empty?).

- Arrange a small selection of photos on a single page. Ask the children to look carefully around and see if they can spot where the photos were taken. This could be a 'walk around' activity, or one that can be done as an introduction whilst sitting in a single place looking all around.

- If schools have brought iPads/cameras to take photos, challenge them to choose what they think is the most important area/object to take a photo and then share ideas about what they chose and why. What might a member of the worshipping community choose? Why?



- Alternatively, give each child a small 'picture frame' cut out from cardboard. The aperture needs to be no bigger than 6cm x 4cm. Invite them to walk around the building and 'frame' the most important objects/areas then discuss as above.

Artefacts

- Younger children will enjoy guessing and then pulling objects out of a 'feely bag'. Invite children of all ages to make suggestions and ask questions about an object/religious artefact. Allow them to handle the object, if appropriate.

- Tell the story of a particular object/artefact. How old is it? How did it come to be in the place of worship? How is it used now? Why is it special to the community/to you personally?

- Play 'Kim's game' – prepare a selection of significant objects (or photos) covered by a cloth and divide the class into teams of about 6. Invite one at a time from each team to come and look before telling their team what they saw. Which team can make a list of all the objects (named or described)?



Multi-sensory approaches

Consider how to move beyond having pupils sitting and listening. How might movement and all the senses be included as part of the visit?

- Are there sounds and smells associated with the building that children could be invited to experience? (e.g. bells, call to prayer, music, incense). There may be food associated with the place of worship. Make plans **in advance** with the teacher if you intend to include any tasting to avoid allergy issues or any misunderstandings (it is important that this is clearly an educational visit, not a participation in an act of worship).

- **'Corners' quiz:** Give each corner of the room a letter or name. Ask some carefully worded multiple-choice questions and ask children to move to the corner of their choice to show their answer. More than one correct answer could be included in the selection to promote discussion.

  Examples of possible questions:
  - Which Holy book do we read here?
  - What do people do when they arrive in this building?
  - How many books/chapters/words/pages are in the holy book?
  - Why do people cover their heads when they come here?

Card sorting

Provide a set of cards for children to sort in small groups. For example:

1. A selection of statements about what happens here. Children can sort them into most important /least important. Include a few 'red herrings'.

2. A selection of festivals, holy books, places , objects, people. Can the children pick out the cards associated with this particular place of worship/faith community?



Support for faith communities

Free training and support are available for leaders and volunteers from local faith communities who visit schools or welcome schools to their place of worship.

Training

A free half day course enables participants to:

- Learn about the local RE syllabus and how a visit can enhance pupils' learning
- Ensure that visits are effective and successful for the community schools
- Explore some activities that can be used on a visit to inspire and inform pupils
- Ensure awareness of safeguarding and handling sensitive issues
- Explore ideas for alternative activities such as virtual tours and online Q and A events
- Meet and network with other people welcoming schools to their places of worship

For details on the next available course contact enquiries@penninelearning.com or go to www.penninelearning.com. Courses are free but places must be booked. Please note that, although safeguarding is covered as part of the morning, the course is not a substitute for full safeguarding training which is available through the local authority or, usually, through a faith community.

Recognition

The *Schools Welcome* badge of recognition is awarded to faith communities and other organisations who fulfil five specific criteria, outlined below. It aims to give confidence to schools about the quality of the visit that can be expected. It may also be awarded to individuals who visit schools. The badge is awarded for three years and is renewable subject to feedback and after attending update training.

The badge recognises and affirms the commitment of the faith community or individual to work in partnership with schools to deliver an effective and appropriate contribution to education. To achieve this, volunteers or employed staff will have received training about safeguarding, RE and appropriate learning strategies. The organisation will have safeguarding policies and protocols in place.

The badge is not a replacement for due diligence and schools remain responsible for their own safeguarding. However, it should give confidence to organisers of visits about the integrity of the education offered.

Communities and individuals receiving the Schools Welcome recognition badge will have fulfilled the following criteria:

1. Educators have attended training and have good understanding of the role of RE in school and what makes a good quality visit

2. Visits are carefully planned with the school, relate directly to the curriculum, and include varied activities and clear communication

3. Safeguarding policies are in place and educators are safeguarding trained

4. Information and contact details are clear and reliable

5. Facilities are accessible and clean with adequate toilet and washing facilities. Where appropriate there is space for pupils to have a drink or lunch, though it is recognised that not all venues will be able to offer this.

Further information

We welcome feedback, suggestions or ideas and will include any changes or amendments in future editions.

For queries contact helen@penninelearning.com

We have carefully checked information in this list but neither Pennine Learning Associates Ltd, nor any of the local authorities we serve, can be held liable for any inaccuracies or for any consequences arising from the use of this list. Please always ensure your safeguarding and quality assurance procedures are in place and check details directly.