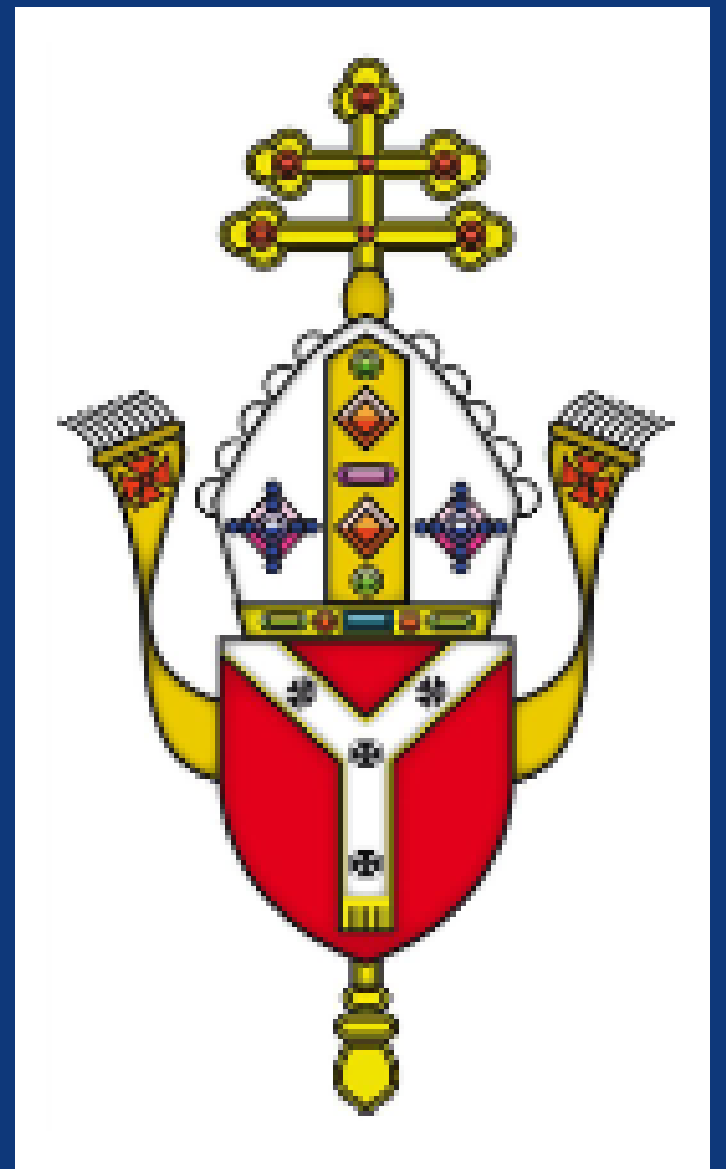


Interreligious Dialogue



Resource Pack

Contained in this resource:

- Organisations that engage in interreligious dialogue;
- Suggestions for where to find the Church's teaching on interreligious dialogue;
- Guidance for where to learn about the teachings of other religions;
- Recommendations for reliable interreligious calendars;
- Links to local Inter Faith Forums across London & Hertfordshire

Please note: These websites are signposted in their current form as of December 2024, the Diocese of Westminster does not manage nor is responsible for any of the websites mentioned in the document.

Interreligious Dialogue

Useful Resources



The Inter Faith Network

- <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/>
- <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/activity/resources-for-youth-inter-faith-engagement>
- <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/school-assemblies-collective-worship>

In 2024, the Inter Faith Network closed. However, their website is still running and contains useful resources for schools.

The running of Inter Faith Week has been taken up by other interfaith charities and continues to run in November each year. More details can be found here: <https://www.interfaithweek.org/>

Westminster Interfaith

- <https://rcdow.org.uk/interfaith/>

Westminster Interfaith is the department in Westminster Diocese that oversees interreligious dialogue. Westminster Interfaith's webpage is updated with new resources, blog posts & upcoming events.

RE Hubs

- <https://www.re-hubs.uk/upskill/>
- <https://www.re-hubs.uk/England/>

Please see these links for interfaith resources and the contact details of suggested religious speakers for Primary & Secondary.

Interreligious Dialogue

Useful Resources



The Faith & Belief Forum

(formerly the Three Faiths Forum)

- <https://faithbeliefforum.org/programmes/>

The Faith & Belief Forum run well-established interfaith workshops in schools. Check the link to see which Boroughs these workshops currently run in.

- <https://faithbeliefforum.org/resources/>

The Faith & Belief Forum also have resources, including lesson plans, for schools.

Other Interfaith Resources

- <https://thefeast.org.uk/resources> - The Feast is an interfaith organisation set up for young people. The website shows interfaith events & guidelines for dialogue.
- <https://stethelburgas.org/> - A Centre for Peace & Reconciliation, St Ethelburga's work sits at the intersection of climate and peace.
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/world-religion-day-teaching-resources/zs6fsk7> - Resources that explore the teachings of different religions.
- <https://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/community-engagement/education> - The Woolf Institute specialise in dialogue between Christians, Muslims & Jews and have resources for teachers.

Religions

Useful Resources



Christianity

The Church has produced many documents which provide the theological backing for interreligious dialogue and offer guidance on how to cultivate a dialogue with people who belong to other religions.

Much of the Catholic Church's teaching on interreligious dialogue comes from *Nostra Aetate*, written by Pope Paul VI during the Second Vatican Council. This document provides the doctrinal foundation for dialogue.

More recently, the Bishop's Conference's document *Meeting God in Friend and Stranger* provides a pastoral guide to putting this teaching into action. Also, their *Spiritual Riches* guides give the meaning behind non-Christian religious festivals, as well as ways to pray for our brothers and sisters of other religions. Below there are links to these documents:

- Nostra Aetate (Pope Paul VI, 1965)
https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_decl_19651028_nostra-aetate_en.html
- Meeting God in Friend and Stranger (Bishop's Conference, 2010)
<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/meeting-god-in-friend-and-stranger/>
- Catholic Bishop's Conference - "Spiritual Riches" Resource
<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/interreligious-dialogue-spiritual-riches/>

Religions

Useful Resources



Judaism

The Catholic Church's bond to the Jewish religion & people is a close one - Pope St John Paul II described them as our "older brothers" in faith. There are around 270,000 Jewish people in the UK (*2021 Census*).

There are a number of Christian-Jewish organisations that seek to deepen this historic bond, such as the Council of Christians and Jews. Mitzvah Day is a good example of an interfaith social action project.

- Council of Christians and Jews
<https://ccj.org.uk/resources>
- Mitzvah Day
<https://mitzvahday.org.uk/>
- Jewish Museum
<https://jewishmuseum.org.uk/schools/in-the-classroom/>

Islam

Along with Christianity and Judaism, Islam is one of the Abrahamic religions. Organisations such as the Christian-Muslim forum work to deepen mutual respect & friendship between Christians and Muslims.

- Christian-Muslim Forum
<https://www.christianmuslimforum.org/resources>
- Islamic Gallery at British Museum
<https://islamicworld.britishmuseum.org/>

Religions

Useful Resources



Hinduism, Sikhism & Buddhism

Although the historic bond to Hinduism, Sikhism or Buddhism is not as strong as the Church's links to Judaism and Islam, interreligious dialogue and deepening mutual understanding retains its importance.

According to the 2021 Census there are 1 million Hindus, ~520,000 Sikhs and ~275,000 Buddhists in the UK.

As well as the Bishop's Conference's "Spiritual Riches" resources (<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/interreligious-dialogue-spiritual-riches/>) below are some useful sites that examine Hinduism, Sikhism & Buddhism:

- <https://researchguides.ben.edu/c.php?g=696771&p=4943777>
- <https://www.hinduamerican.org/teaching-resources>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/>
- <https://www.sikhcoalition.org/about-sikhs/>
- <https://thebuddhistcentre.com/stories/schools/>
- <https://www.thebuddhistsociety.org/page/religious-education-re>



Religions

Useful Resources



Jainism, the Bahá'í Faith & Zoroastrianism:

There are around 60,000–70,000 Jains in the UK (compared with around 27 million Christians & 4 million Muslims (2021 Census)). Along with the Bahá'í Faith (~7,000 adherents in the UK) and Zoroastrianism (~5,000 adherents in the UK), Jainism is a minority religion in the UK.

However, this does not dispense of the need to learn about these religions, nor need it be a barrier to interreligious dialogue. In schools, many students may never have encountered members of these religions before. Moreover, if you have students who belong to these traditions, you might like to ask them to explain their experience of the religion & its traditions. Below are some useful sites:

- <https://www.jainology.org/>
- <https://www.jainology.org/interfaith/>
- <http://re.bahai.org.uk/>
- <https://www.bahai.org/>
- <https://religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/member/zoroastrian-trust-funds-of-europe/>
- <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Zoroastrianism>

Interfaith Calendars

- Bishop's Conference Interreligious Calendar
<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/religious-festivals/>
- SHAP Calendar (a well-established interfaith calendar).
<http://www.shapcalendar.org.uk/index.html>

Local Interfaith Forums

Links



Local Interfaith Forums: London

The majority of London Boroughs have active interfaith forums and so, when looking for speakers for events or talks in schools, making contact with these forums can be helpful. Many of these forums want to increase their engagement with local schools - this can be a good way to further integrate a school into the local community.

You can also search for Interfaith Forums via the Inter Faith Network's website: <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/involved/groups>.

- Barnet: <https://barnetmultifaithforum.org/>
- Brent: <https://brentmultifaithforum.org.uk/>
- Camden:
https://cindex.camden.gov.uk/kb5/camden/cd/service.page?id=mBZ9_V-N1Xw
- Enfield: <https://www.enfield.gov.uk/services/your-council/enfield-faith-forum>
- Hackney: <https://hcvs.org.uk/faith-forum/>
- Hammersmith & Fulham:
<https://www.lbhf.gov.uk/community/faith-communities>
- Harrow: <https://www.harrowinterfaith.org/>
- Hillingdon: <https://www.facebook.com/hillingdonifn/>
- Hounslow: <https://www.hounslowfriendsofffaith.org/>
- Islington: <https://www.islingtonfaithsforum.org.uk/>
- Richmond: https://www.richmond.gov.uk/inter_faith_forum
- Tower Hamlets: <https://www.faithintowerhamlets.org/>

Other Boroughs can be contacted via the Inter Faith Network.

Local Interfaith Forums

Links



Local Interfaith Forums: Hertfordshire

There are not as many Interfaith Forums in Hertfordshire. However, the Inter Faith Network's search can help you to find your closest forum: <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/involved/groups/local-inter-faith/east>.

Like the London Forums, local Interfaith Forums often have good links with the Council and local faith leaders.

The Herts Inter Faith Forum is a group that covers the whole of Hertfordshire. Please get in touch with Westminster Interfaith if you'd like to contact this forum.

You can also utilise your local networks - i.e. the contacts of teachers of different religions or parent's recommendations.

If you are struggling to find a speaker, do get in contact with James our Interfaith Coordinator on westminsterinterfaith@rcdow.org.uk.



Westminster Interfaith was founded in 1981 by Br Daniel Faivre SG (in the photo on the left). Br Daniel was a pioneer in the field of interreligious dialogue and founded Westminster Interfaith, the first Catholic agency dedicated to interfaith work in Great Britain.

Today, we work in the Diocese of Westminster to bring this teaching to a new audience, engaging young people in the work of dialogue.