

## **Interfaith Week 15-21 November 2009**

From 15-21 November, Inter Faith Week will take place in England and Wales.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has been working with the Inter Faith Network for the UK and Communities and Local Government to encourage Inter Faith Week classroom activities and whole school activities in schools in England.

Its aims are to:

- strengthen good inter faith relations at all levels;
- encourage local faith groups and communities to reach out to each other and build stronger bonds of understanding and cooperation;
- increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, with a particular focus on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society;
- to gain positive profile for inter faith initiatives, locally, regionally and nationally, as well as for the overall work of building good inter faith relations;
- increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs;
- to encourage the development of new partnerships within local communities and by faith communities with statutory and third sector partners.

Pupils, teachers and staff in schools will be playing a big part in the Week through classroom activities and whole school activities. On the Inter Faith Week website there are some resources for schools specially created for the Week. But each school participating will be choosing its own way to mark this exciting Week. If you carry out an activity for the Week Norfolk Standing Advisory Council on RE (SACRE) would be pleased to hear about it.

The following website provides a comprehensive list of activities and ideas for celebrating this week: <http://www.interfaithweek.org/schools.htm>

In addition, Norfolk SACRE and the Interfaith Education Network are working together to provide support for teachers and other staff during this week. We will be hosting two events with an opportunity for teachers and others to meet and talk to faith members. Details of these events are attached.

Alison Thompson  
Chair of SACRE

David Orsborne  
Clerk to SACRE

Jill Napier  
Norwich Interfaith Education Network



**the questions you've always wanted to ask!**

## Interfaith Week Events for Teachers and Support Staff in Schools

Hamond's High School, Swaffham 4-6pm  
Eaton Primary School, Norwich 4-6pm

- To strengthen good inter faith relations between school staff and faith communities
- To encourage local faith communities to build relationships with schools
- To provide opportunities for teachers/support staff to gain an 'insiders' view of belonging to a faith

4pm: Welcome

4.30pm: First 'Human Library' session (meeting with faith members)

5pm: Break

5.15pm: Second 'Human Library' session (meeting with faith members)

5.45pm: Plenary- celebrating our ‘shared humanity’.

6pm Close

***Faith members are giving up their time for free! Please make the most of this fantastic opportunity. Bring your department or staff this event!***

**Spaces are limited, so please book early.**

Please email Gina MacColl if you are planning to attend by Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November.  
Stating clearly you name, school and which event you wish to attend.

[gina.maccoll@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:gina.maccoll@norfolk.gov.uk)