

# National Interfaith Week: help to raise the profile of RE/RS within the school!

This year, National Interfaith Week runs from 17th to 23rd November and, as in years past, we are confident that many Northumberland schools will use the opportunity to examine religion and belief within the wider community, thereby raising the profile of RE/RS within our schools. As you probably already know, National Interfaith Week:

- highlights the good work done by local faith, interfaith and faith-based groups and organisations
- draws new people into interfaith learning and cooperation
- enables greater interaction between people of different backgrounds
- helps develop integrated and neighbourly communities
- celebrates diversity and commonality, and
- opens new possibilities for partnership.

Building good relationships and working partnerships between people of different faiths and beliefs is part of the year-round work of many people and organisations across the UK. Having a National Interfaith Week provides a focal point, helping to open up interfaith activity to a wider audience so that more and more people are made aware of the importance of this vital work and are able to participate in it.

The three aims of the Week are:

- strengthening good interfaith relations at all levels
- increasing awareness of the different and distinct faith and belief communities in the UK, in particular celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society, and
- increasing understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs.

Good luck planning events. Do not forget that the Agreed Syllabus for RE has information about people who, and places which, can assist you in making National Interfaith Week a great success. And do access the National Interfaith Week website ([www.interfaithweek.org](http://www.interfaithweek.org)) for information about what is going on in our region and further afield. You never know: information about an event posted on the website could provide a springboard for one of your own events.

If you hold an event associated with National Interfaith Week, why not tell a wider audience about it by writing an article for publication in the next SACRE Newsletter. Go on: flaunt your success!

## Some information that may be helpful!

For the last three years, SACRE's indispensable clerk, Linda Papaioannou, has made sure that all SACRE members are provided with copies of the Multifaiths Newsletter, an internet publication which derives from [www.multifaiths.com](http://www.multifaiths.com). The newsletter has information and advice relating to RE, SMSC, cultural diversity and collective worship, but also directs you toward websites that examine how religion, belief and SMSC impact across the curriculum. [www.multifaiths.com](http://www.multifaiths.com) is also responsible for the publication of a multifaith calendar. RE co-ordinators, senior leadership teams and governors with an interest in any or all of the above matters may wish to access the newsletter via the [www.multifaiths.com](http://www.multifaiths.com) website, and some of the other publications for which it has links. As is the case with all such agencies, some products and publications are better than others, but many are worth examining for helpful information. A lot of the information can be used immediately in the classroom and/or in the assembly hall.