

# Guidance for Schools, Teachers, Faith Communities and Members of Faith Communities visiting Schools



Herefordshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education  
(SACRE) 2018

Compiled in 2018 by Hereteach Alliance

Grateful acknowledgement is made to Sarah Yaseen and Salma Kaka for permission to print the photographs on the cover.

Herefordshire SACRE Visits and visitors for RE 2018

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## Introduction

Meeting visitors and going on visits to faith communities is a key learning experience and one of the essential experiences and opportunities for all pupils identified in the Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus for RE 2015-20.

Teachers often ask for advice about the best places of worship to visit with pupils. Over time Herefordshire SACRE has asked teachers which places they have found educational. Teachers have shared experience and expertise when organising such visits. These details have now been updated and included here. Some schools also suggested visitors from faiths who could be invited in.

The places and people are organised by religious tradition. This list does not aim to be fully comprehensive - but tries to be helpful and to be as accurate as possible at the time of publication.

# 1. Guidance for teachers: planning and escorting pupils to a place of worship

There are many benefits to be derived from visiting places of worship but in practical terms teachers need to think through the points listed below:

## Before you go checklist

- Make initial contact with the faith community to find out if you can visit and when is the best time – both for you and the faith community. Religious festivals can be more demanding...
- Try to visit the faith community yourself to explore learning opportunities and to discuss your needs with the person who will be involved in the visit. Share with him/her what you hope pupils will get out of the visit.
- Clearly planned aims help to fit the visit into a scheme of work. A general 'look around' is the least likely activity to be successful. If possible try to arrange for the pupils to meet some believers other than the ordained leaders. Talk about how long you will stay. As a rule of thumb, under an hour is usually too short to make the most of the learning opportunity.
- Ensure the pupils are very clear about what they are expected to gain from the visit.
- Get parental permission: Schools should send a letter home with each pupil to make clear that this is an educational visit and that pupils will observe, not participate, in worship. Invite parents and other adults to help out on the visit. Make clear to parents the relevance of the visit to the curriculum.
- Prepare pupils. It is likely to be a completely new situation for them. Provide guidance about appropriate attitudes and any dress requirements such as removing shoes, covering heads. Encourage pupils to ask and respond to questions during the visit. Talk over, in advance, questions they may wish to ask during the visit.
- Plan ways in which the visit will be followed up back in the classroom to ensure a 'learning experience' for pupils in line with expectations and aims of Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus.
- Use follow up work through displays and assessed tasks to demonstrate the value and relevance of the visit to pupils and parents.

## At the place of worship - checklist

**Dress** – in addition to any specific requirements, *modest dress* is the usual guideline. *Shoes* are removed before entering the prayer rooms of the Mosque, Mandir, Gurdwara and Buddhist Vihara. Check specific requirements when organising the visit – the following are the usual practice:

Mosque: Female: Head, legs and arms covered. Male: Heads covered during prayer time.

Gurdwara: Female: Head and legs covered. Male: Head covered.

No food or drink to be taken into the Gurdwara.

**Photographs** – many places of worship will allow photographs to be taken at the appropriate time but prior permission should be sought and this should be made very clear to pupils and accompanying staff volunteer helpers.

**Behaviour** – good behaviour standards are appropriate. In all places of worship it would be disrespectful to chew, talk loudly, run around or touch things without invitation. In places where sitting on a carpeted floor is usual, it is disrespectful to sit with legs open facing the focal point e.g. a deity, a holy book, Qibla wall etc.

**Hospitality** – a number of places of worship will show hospitality to visitors by offering food or refreshment. It is important to prepare pupils for this as it is offensive to refuse. Pupils and accompanying staff and volunteer helpers should be clear about this and appropriate alternative plans should be in place if necessary e.g. allergies.

Hindu: prashad – this may take the form of crystal sugar, almonds, sweets or snack food. It is not sacred and should be accepted with thanks and eaten on the spot. Check ingredients in case of allergies etc.

Gurdwara/Sikh: Kara prashad – a semi-solid cold food made from butter, semolina, sugar and milk, or a cup of tea boiled with milk. This is not a sacred food and should be accepted with thanks. Kara prashad can be kept for eating later.

**Donations** – places of worship do not, as a rule, charge for visits, but a donation is recommended. Please treat this with sensitivity and negotiate beforehand. It may be more appropriate to take a 'gift' but this should be discussed at the planning stage.

**Safeguarding and Risk Assessment** – use appropriate safeguarding and risk assessments as expected for other offsite visits. In addition, request safeguarding and risk assessment policies from the place of worship being visited.

## 2. Guidance for faith communities: Schools visiting your place of worship

Many schools wish to plan visits to local places of worship as part of the RE curriculum, but either do not know how to make the first approach or what to expect when they have made contact. When receiving pupils at a place of worship put in place:

- Before receiving a group of pupils on a visit, you should plan carefully with the teacher and prepare, in discussion with the teacher, some activities that will be engaging for pupils. In general, a combination of listening, doing, talking, questioning and recording is the best plan for variety!
- Familiarise yourself and staff with the specific aims and expectations for pupils based on the Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus
- If possible try to arrange to have some believers, and not just ordained leaders, but some 'lay' people present to meet the pupils. If possible the faith representative might talk about how and why their faith is important to them; show pupils anything they use in their religious worship or special days and perhaps retell a favourite faith story and say what it means to them.
- Ensure the guide(s) representing the place of worship is/are able to communicate clearly, in a way that is appropriate and positive for the specific ages and abilities of the visiting pupils.
- Small groups of pupils usually ensures greater confidence, engagement and impact of the experience.
- If you have frequent school visits you may find it helpful to produce a short checklist of things to remember that can be sent to the school in advance of the visit. This will be very helpful to the teachers in preparing pupils for the visit.

### Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus 2017: Programmes of study



Herefordshire-Agreed-Syllabus-2015-2020

(© RE Today/Herefordshire SACRE: Used with permission) The following programmes of study are the context for involving visitors from faith communities and visiting local places of worship. For full details see the Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus 2017.

### 3. Guidance for religious visitors going into schools

Schools can provide rich opportunities for pupils by welcoming visitors from local religious communities. Some schools remain hesitant about this, so this Code of Conduct is offered to encourage good relations between schools and visitors, and to make the most of the opportunity.

Code of Conduct: Religious visitors taking part in the life of a school should:

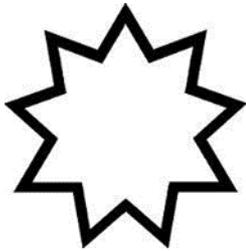
- Be willing to share their own experiences, beliefs and insights, but avoid (a) criticism of the experience and insights of others and (b) imposing their views on pupils in any way.
- Be familiar with the school's aims, ethos and policies, and plan their involvement in the light of the aims and curriculum at the school. It is more effective to take part in the regular programme of teaching and learning, rather than make an isolated or one off contribution to the curriculum.
- If possible, be involved in a series of visits while pupils develop a 'project'/topic or scheme of work. At its conclusion, be involved in the evaluation and assessment of pupils' ability to articulate and demonstrate an understanding of your faith/religious tradition.
- Seek to use engaging teaching and learning methods which involve the pupils actively, and to communicate at appropriate levels for the age group(s) concerned. The two most common problems for pupils when visitors make a classroom contribution are that they listen to a lengthy monologue, with more or less attention, and that they can't understand; the material presented is too hard, or the language is over the pupils' heads. Visitors who avoid these two pitfalls will be more effective.
- Make clear to pupils who they are, who they represent and what they are offering to the pupils during their visit to the school.
- Be willing to respect and value the faith of children and young people when it is different to their own.
- Develop ways of speaking to children which communicate their open approach, avoiding any hidden agenda to convert young people.

© Voices of faith and belief in schools Guidance and a Code of Conduct, National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE) 2014

A question to help visitors reflect on their approach in the classroom:

***'If a member of another religion visited my child's school and contributed in the same way that I have done, would I, as a parent, be happy with the education given?'***

## 4. Places to visit Directory



### Baha'i Faith:

Ty-ni, Newlands Road, Leominster Herefordshire, HR6 8PS

Contact: Midge Ault

Midge is a member of SACRE and a Baha'i working as a teacher in Leominster.

She can be contacted by email: [midgeoff@freenetname.co.uk](mailto:midgeoff@freenetname.co.uk)

The Bahá'ís do not have a place of worship in the county, but groups of pupils may also be able to participate in the celebration of Bahá'í festivals. We can also arrange to come to schools to participate in lessons, present assemblies and participate in inter-faith activities. Groups of pupils may also be able to participate in the celebration of Bahá'í festivals.

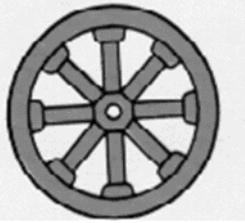
The Bahá'í Faith is an independent world religion whose central principle is unity.

Bahá'u'lláh, the Founder of the Bahá'í Faith (1817-1892), taught that God has revealed, and will continue to reveal His message to humanity progressively over the ages through a succession of great Messengers and Prophets. Bahá'is believe that Bahá'u'lláh is the great personage whose teachings will enable humanity to build a united and peaceful world, based on spiritual principles.

The Bahá'i Faith has over five million followers worldwide, and is represented in more than 200 countries and territories.

**Websites:** <http://re.bahai.org.uk> (materials and information for teachers)

<http://bahai.org> (general information about the Bahá'í Faith)



## Buddhism

Cardiff Buddhist Centre

12, St Peter's Street, Roath, Cardiff, CF24 3BA

Tel: 0292 046 2492 email: [connect@cardiffbuddhistcentre.com](mailto:connect@cardiffbuddhistcentre.com)

Website: <http://www.cardiffbuddhistcentre.com>

Tibetan Buddhism: Rokpa Cardiff

Correspondence contacts: 100 Moorland Road Cardiff CF24 2LP

Tel: 029 2049 9185 E-mail: [info@rokpacardiff.com](mailto:info@rokpacardiff.com)

Website: <http://www.rokpacardiff.com>

Rokpa Cardiff is a branch of Kagyu Samye Ling Monastery in Scotland, a Tibetan Buddhist Centre established in 1967 with branches worldwide. Visits to schools by Tibetan monks and nuns have been arranged in South Wales. Contact the above number for more information.

The Venerable Tsuiltrim Tenzin Choesang (Ani-la Choesang) was ordained by His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama. Ani Choesang is a Gelongma, a fully ordained nun in the Tibetan tradition, holding the title of Tsuiltrim. She now mainly teaches in the UK and at her nunnery in Nepal. Living in Herefordshire, she is able to visit schools, working with pupils from ages 5-19.

**Email:** [choesang@the-hermit-online.co.uk](mailto:choesang@the-hermit-online.co.uk)

**Can offer:** teaching sessions on Buddhism in primary and secondary schools

Ivan Hatvany Prison Chaplain, Buddhist, Gloucestershire

Ivan first studied Buddhism as part of his Philosophy degree twenty years ago. Since then he has studied numerous books on the subject and practiced meditation under the direct guidance of three of the most senior Western Buddhist teachers. His experience covers all the main Buddhist traditions, mostly centring on Theravada Buddhism and he now teaches meditation to others. He qualified as a Business and Economics teacher in 1996 and was Head of that Department at St. Edwards School, Cheltenham 2000 to 2002.

**Contact:** Ivan Hatvany

**Tel:** 01242 577215 **Email:** [lhatvany@aol.com](mailto:lhatvany@aol.com)

**Can offer:** teaching sessions on Buddhism in local secondary schools

Bristol Buddhist Centre, 162 Gloucester Road, Bishopston, Bristol, BS7 8NT

**Tel:** 0117 924 9991 **Email:** [info@bristol-buddhist-centre.org](mailto:info@bristol-buddhist-centre.org)

**Website:** [www.bristol-buddhist-centre.org](http://www.bristol-buddhist-centre.org)

**Tradition:** Triratna (Formerly FWBO Friends of the Western Buddhist Order)

**Can offer:** The Buddhist Centre welcomes visits from schools with students of all ages. They can also, on occasion, provide speakers to come and visit your school. Contact them via the website.

Birmingham Buddhist Centre

**Website:** [www.birminghambuddhistcentre.org.uk](http://www.birminghambuddhistcentre.org.uk)

**Email:** [info@birminghambuddhistcentre.org.uk](mailto:info@birminghambuddhistcentre.org.uk)

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Manchester Buddhist Centre/The Clear Vision Trust, 16-20 Turner Street, Manchester, M4 1DZ

**Contact:** Munisha (Education Officer)

**Tel:** 0161 839 9579 **Fax:** 0870 139 1699 (education only)

**Email:** [education@clear-vision.org](mailto:education@clear-vision.org)

**Website:** <http://www.manchesterbuddhistcentre.org.uk/>

The Clear Vision Trust is a charity promoting the understanding of Buddhism through audio-visual media. Run by practising Western Buddhists, Clear Vision is associated with Triratna (formerly FWBO).

It is located in the Manchester Buddhist Centre and runs the Buddhist Centre's school visits service. Please ring or email for information.

**Further information useful to schools:** The FWBO was founded in 1967. It stresses the unity of all Buddhism and draws its teachings from all schools of Buddhism. It sees itself as adapting the traditional forms of Buddhism to make them relevant to those brought up in a Western culture.



Christianity

Church of England

The Priory Church, Church Street, Leominster

The Ministry Team is led by the Team Rector, The Revd. Michael Kneen, with The Revd. Elizabeth Brown and The Revd. Kirsty Clarke, together with people nominated by the Church.

Contact: Rev Michael Kneen

Tel. office: 01568 612124

Email: [office@leominsterpriory.org.uk](mailto:office@leominsterpriory.org.uk)

Hereford Cathedral, 5 College Cloisters, Cathedral Close, Hereford, HR1 2NG

Contact: Sarah Arrowsmith Education Officer

St Laurence Church, Ludlow

Parishes' Office, No. 2 College Street, Ludlow, Shropshire, SY8 1AN Tel. 01584 872073

Website: [www.stlaurences.org.uk](http://www.stlaurences.org.uk)

e-mail: [office@stlaurences.org.uk](mailto:office@stlaurences.org.uk)

Misericords, second only to York Minster

Gloucester Diocese of The Church of England has churches in every parish and village. The Department for Children and Young People at the Diocese of Gloucester will advise schools of the contact details of their local parish priest and other local Christian speakers.

**Contact:** The Diocesan Resource Centre

(Centre manager: Hannah Hauxwell)

**Tel:** 01452 385217

**Email:** [hhauxwell@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:hhauxwell@glosdioc.org.uk)

For specific advice on RE, please contact Debbie Helme, Diocesan Education Officer  
[dhelme@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:dhelme@glosdioc.org.uk) or 01452 835550

Gloucester Cathedral

Education Centre, St Mary's Gate, St Mary's Street, Gloucester, GL1 2QR

**Contacts:** Education Officers: Debbie Helme, Sarah Law

**Tel:** 01452 521010

**Website:** <http://www.gloucestercathedral.org.uk/schools/>

**Email:** [education@gloucestercathedral.org.uk](mailto:education@gloucestercathedral.org.uk)

**Able to offer:** RE focused educational visits to the Cathedral. The Education Officer will discuss your requirements and tailor a tour to suit your needs. There is no admission charge to the Cathedral, but a donation is requested from visitors. School parties are charged according to their chosen tour.

The Cathedral Education Centre can also arrange a full day visit for schools wanting to visit more than one place of worship on the same day. They can take up to 100 children on a joint Mosque/Cathedral trip and up

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to 60 children on a joint Synagogue/Cathedral trip.

## Roman Catholic Church

Belmont Abbey

Contact: Father James Tel: 01432 374780

Tewkesbury Abbey

Abbey Office, Church Street, Tewkesbury, Gloucs

**Tel:** Abbey Office 01684 850959

**Website:** <http://www.tewkesburyabbey.org.uk>

**Able to offer:** RE focused educational visits for Primary schools

St. Ethelbert's Roman Catholic Church, Bargates, Leominster.

Contact: Father Slater Tel. 01568 612238

Visits to local Roman Catholic churches in Gloucestershire

Catholic parishes are arranged in deaneries, and in Gloucestershire these are Gloucester, Cheltenham and Stroud deaneries. South Gloucestershire parishes are in either the Bristol South or Bristol East deaneries.

To arrange visits to local Roman Catholic churches, contact the Parish Priest or Parish Administrator. Details of all parishes can be found in the Diocesan Yearbook or on the website:

<http://www.cliftondiocese.com>

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Clifton was established in 1850 and it covers the historical counties of Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire. The Bishop of Clifton is the Right Reverend Declan Lang and his Cathedral Church is situated at Clifton in Bristol.

The Diocesan Website: <http://www.cliftondiocese.com>

Department of Schools and Colleges

Director: Colleen Collett B.Ed, Alexander House, 160 Pennywell Road, Bristol, BS5 0TX

**Tel:** 0117 902 5593    **Email:** [colleen.collett@cliftondiocese.com](mailto:colleen.collett@cliftondiocese.com)

For Prinknash Abbey: See <http://www.prinknashabbey.org>

E-mail: [prinknash.abbey@parish.cliftondiocese.com](mailto:prinknash.abbey@parish.cliftondiocese.com)

## Baptist Church

The Baptist Church, Etnam St., Leominster. Contact: Mr Peter Dennis Tel.01568 620313

There are many Baptist Churches in Herefordshire. To find out details of your local Baptist Church or further information contact WEBA website (West of England Baptist Association. This website offers a comprehensive list of churches that are affiliated to the Baptist Association, many of whom also have their own website, usually providing additional contact details.

**Contact:** West of England Baptist Association, The Old Forge, Broom Hill, Stapleton, Bristol BS16 1DN

**Tel:** 0117 965 8828 **Website:** [www.webassoc.org.uk](http://www.webassoc.org.uk)

## Methodist Church

The Methodist Church, Green Lane, Leominster.

Contact: Rev. Mary Jolly Tel.01568 612406

The Methodist Circuit of Gloucestershire falls within the Methodist Bristol District.

**Contact:** Circuit Office, Northgate Hall, St. John's Lane, Gloucester GL1 2AT

**Telephone:** 01452 415769

**Website:** [www.gloucestershiremethodist.org.uk](http://www.gloucestershiremethodist.org.uk)

## Pentecostal

Elim Christian Centre, 117 St Georges Road, Cheltenham GL50 3EG

**Contact:** Rev Luke Goodway **Position:** Minister

**Tel:** 01242 524476 **Email:** [dave.wellington@cheltenhamelim.org](mailto:dave.wellington@cheltenhamelim.org)

**Website:** <http://www.cheltenhamelim.org>

## The Moravian Church

South St., Leominster.

**Contact:** Rev. David Howarth, 116 College Rd., Moseley, Birmingham. B13 9LH

**Tel.** 0121 777 3429 **email:** [david.howarth@moravian.org.uk](mailto:david.howarth@moravian.org.uk)

## Salvation Army

Salvation Army Citadel: Cannonmore Street, Hereford

Contact: Rudi Pilsel

Salvation Army Citadel: 150 Eastgate Street, Gloucester GL1 1QU

**Contact:** The Commanding Officer **Email:** [gloucester@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:gloucester@salvationarmy.org.uk) **Tel:** 01452 311332

**Website:** <http://www.gloucestersalvationarmy.org.uk>

**Able to offer:** visits to the Citadel, speakers to visit schools, details of Salvation Army centres in Cheltenham, Forest of Dean, Stroud and Tewkesbury.

## The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

There are Quaker communities across Herefordshire and Gloucestershire, from Hereford to Cheltenham and the Forest of Dean. Friends in Cirencester, Gloucester, Nailsworth and Painswick worship in historic Meeting Houses some dating back to 1670s. Elsewhere Quakers worship in more modern Meeting Houses or village halls.

Quakers trace their Christian roots back to a time of religious and civil unrest in 1650s England. George Fox gathered together a movement which challenged the beliefs and ideas of the time. From then until now, Quakers have lived out their faith in testimonies to Truth, Peace, Equality and Simplicity, including the abolition of slavery, prison reform, peace-building and climate change. Then as now, Quaker worship is based on silent waiting and spoken ministry. Quakers have no ordained clergy, believing there is that of God

in all, and therefore all are open to the light and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

**Website:** [www.quaker.org.uk](http://www.quaker.org.uk)

**Can offer:** Assembly or lesson visits about Quaker faith and testimonies (e.g. Elizabeth Fry and prison reform) by a former teacher with experience of working with all age groups. We can also offer to speak on inter-faith issues, International Peace Day 21st September, Restorative Practices and climate justice. Visits to Meeting Houses may also be possible.

## United Reformed Church

West Midlands Synod, Digbeth-in-the-Field United Reformed Church, Moat Lane, Yardley, Birmingham B26 1TW

**Contact:** Rev Simon Helme, Area Minister for Gloucestershire

**E-mail:** [smhelme@gmail.com](mailto:smhelme@gmail.com) **Tel:** 01453 519090

**Able to offer:** details of local clergy willing to provide church visits or speak in schools.

**Website:** [www.urcwestmidlands.org.uk](http://www.urcwestmidlands.org.uk)



## Christian Aid

9 College Green, Gloucester GL1 2LX

**Tel:** 01452 309115

**Website:** [www.christian-aid.org.uk](http://www.christian-aid.org.uk)

Children and teachers: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/schools>

**Able to offer:** 'Christian Aid teacher' scheme offers a trained individual to deliver curriculum based lessons or assemblies. Christian Aid produces curriculum based resources for schools



## Unitarian

There are 3 Unitarian worshipping communities in Gloucestershire- Cheltenham, Gloucester and Cirencester.

**Unitarian Website** – for more information: [www.unitarian.org.uk](http://www.unitarian.org.uk)

**Contact:** Rev Don Phillips **Email:** [Don.Phillips@btinternet.com](mailto:Don.Phillips@btinternet.com)

Bayshill Unitarian Church, Royal Well Lane, Cheltenham, GL50 3ET

**Website:** <http://www.cheltenhamandgloucesterunitarians.org.uk>

**Able to offer:** Speakers to visit schools and visits to Unitarian places of worship

## Freedom Church (formerly New Life Christian Church)

Contact: Mrs Heather Snowzell Tel: 01568 615085

Churches in Cheltenham

**Website:** <http://www.cheltenhamquaker.org.uk/churches.php>

The above website offers a map showing the Christian churches in central Cheltenham. A useful resource for Cheltenham schools when exploring churches in the local community.

## Churches Together in Stroud

**Website:** <http://www.stroudchurches.org/dir.htm> This website provides details about the Stroud and district Christian churches listed below including information about how to contact them.

Chalford Baptist Church; Church of God of Prophecy; Church of the Holy Spirit (Paganhill); Church of Immaculate Conception (RC); Holy Trinity (Slad) CofE; Holy Trinity (Stroud) CofE; Minchinhampton Baptist Church; Rodborough Tabernacle (URC); Salvation Army; St John the Baptist (Randwick); St Laurence (Stroud); St Mary Magdalene (Rodborough); St Pauls (Whiteshill); Stroud Baptist; Stroud Christian Fellowship; Stroud Congregational; Stroud Methodist; Stroud Uplands CofE.



## HINDUISM:

Swaminarayan Temple, Merches Place, Grangetown, Cardiff, CF1 6RD

Contact: Naran Patel, President of the Hindu Mandir

Website: <http://www.swaminarayanwales.org.uk>

Visit this site to see details of arranging school visits and a list of schools that have been. Visits to the Mandir are in the mornings only with prior arrangements. The visit normally lasts approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes.

The visits can consist of:

Description and feel of the artefacts; Playing traditional Indian musical instruments; Performing "Yoga"; Different symbols; Worksheets can be used to accommodate the schools syllabus; Hindu greetings and their morning activities at home.

Shree Geeta Bhawan Temple, 107-117 Heathfield Road Birmingham B19 1HL

Tel: Mandir: (0)121 554 4120 Tel: Office: (0)121 523 7797 Website: <http://www.shreegeetabhawan.com>

Hindu Temple, 541A Warwick Rd, Birmingham.

Contact: Mhadra Dabhi, President of the Mandir, Tel: 0121 764 4174

Krishna Mandir, Cheltenham, 64 Swindon Road, Cheltenham, GL50 4AY

**Contact:** by email to Daxa Mehta (see below). Daxa will contact the Mandir on behalf of schools. Schools are asked to confirm arrangements in writing.

**Mandir able to offer:** visits to the centre are offered from 10 to 11 am most weekday mornings.

**Further information:** The Hindu community of 200-300 families uses the centre for worship and community meetings. Groups (to a maximum of 30) can visit the temple and, dependent on time of visit, observe daily worship and hear about the deities. Modest dress; shoes removed before entering the temple. Children are requested to take a piece of fruit as an offering, which they can share at the end of the visit, on their way back to school. A donation is very welcome. Wheelchair access available to temple only.

**Weblink - for an article on the Gloucestershire Hindu Community:**

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/gloucestershire/untold\\_stories/asian/hindu\\_community.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/gloucestershire/untold_stories/asian/hindu_community.shtml) or

<http://www.irespect.net/Untold%20Stories/Asian/index.htm>

Daxa Mehta - Hindu Workshops for schools

Mrs Daxa Mehta is the founder of Hello India and has been working with schools in Gloucestershire and surrounding counties for the past 15 years.

The workshops she delivers are in accordance with the school curriculum and are presented according to your requirements.

The range of topics covered are Hinduism, Indian folk dancing, indian cooking, henna painting, dressing-up and language learning.

The emphasis is on interaction, creativity and engagement.

**Able to offer:** Workshops on Hinduism and how it affects our daily lives – KS1-2. Workshops can be developed to meet school needs.

**Further information:** Also offers workshops on cooking demonstration, henna painting, Indian folk dancing & Gujarati language.

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**Email:** [daxajmehta@gmail.com](mailto:daxajmehta@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.helloindia.co.uk](http://www.helloindia.co.uk)

**Facebook:** helloindia.co.uk **Tel:** 07786 246 602

Wolverhampton

**Main contact:** Wolverhampton Inter-faith group,

**Office and resource centre:** 2 Clarence St, Wolverhampton WV1 4HZ

**Tel/Fax:** 01902 427601

**Email:** [interfwolv@aol.com](mailto:interfwolv@aol.com)

This organisation organises the itinerary for the visits and advises on dress codes and religious sensitivities. Contact the group to arrange a visit to.....

Shree Krishna Hindu Temple 123 Penn Road, Wolverhampton WV3 0DU Tel: 01902 772416



Gloucestershire Humanists

The group now known as Gloucestershire Humanists was set up in 1965 and it is in partnership with Humanists UK and affiliated to the National Secular Society.

**Contacts:** Richard Barton (Chair) 01242 231212 [rjbsabrina@gmail.com](mailto:rjbsabrina@gmail.com) and Hannah Hart (Secretary) 01242 516083

**Email:** [gloshums@gmail.com](mailto:gloshums@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.glos.humanist.org.uk](http://www.glos.humanist.org.uk)

Members of the Gloucestershire Group are willing to talk about Humanism in your school, college or community group – email for details

There is now a group called the Herefordshire Humanists founded in 2015. The group can also be found on Facebook and Twitter.

Contact details:

Tel: 01989 565591

Email [Herefordshire@humanistgroups.org.uk](mailto:Herefordshire@humanistgroups.org.uk)

Website: <https://twitter.com/HrfdHumanists>

### What is Humanism?

Throughout recorded history there have been non-religious people who have believed that this life is the only life we have, that the universe is a natural phenomenon with no supernatural side, and that we can live ethical and fulfilling lives on the basis of reason and humanity. They have trusted to the scientific method, evidence, and reason to discover truths about the universe and have placed human welfare and happiness at the centre of their ethical decision making. Today, people who share these beliefs and values are called humanists and this combination of attitudes is called Humanism. Many millions of people in Britain share this way of living and of looking at the world, but many of them have not heard the word 'humanist' and don't realise that it describes what they believe.

**More about Humanism:** <https://humanism.org.uk/humanism>

**Humanism and Education:** <https://humanism.org.uk/education>

### Educational Resources:

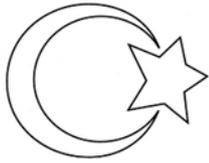
Free: <https://humanism.org.uk/education/recommended-resources>

For sale: <https://humanism.org.uk/store/educational-resources>

**Humanist Ceremonies:** <https://humanism.org.uk/ceremonies>

**Secularism:** <http://www.secularism.org.uk>

**New Humanist Magazine:** See <https://newhumanist.org.uk>



## Islam:

Zack Pandor

Zack is a member of Herefordshire SACRE and a Muslim working in Hereford.

He can be contacted by email - [zpandor@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:zpandor@yahoo.co.uk)

South Wales Islamic Centre, Alice Street, Butetown, Cardiff. CF10 5LB

Tel: (029) 20460243 –Mohammed Toulba

Telephone this number and they are happy to arrange one hour morning visits for school parties.

Ghamkolvia Central Mosque, 150, Golden Hillock Rd, Small Heath, Birmingham. B10 0DX Contact: Mr Akhtar Ali Tel: 0121 771 4533 Email [aktaraliaktar@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:aktaraliaktar@yahoo.co.uk)

Mosques in Gloucester:

Schools wishing to arrange visits to the Gloucester Mosques or speakers from the Muslim community should contact: **Mufti Abdullah Patel** Director, Gloucestershire Islamic Academy

**Tel:** 01452 300465 **Email:** [iacademy@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:iacademy@yahoo.co.uk)

**Details:** Mufti Abdullah is Chair of the Islamic Shuraa (committee) for Gloucestershire which comprises Imams of all the Mosques and Chair of their respective Mosques. He is respected scholar in Islamic theology and Jurisprudence. He also heads the Gloucestershire Islamic Girls School since 1994. He is very well informed on educational matters.

**Further information:** All visitors remove shoes on entering prayer hall. Females: cover legs, arms, head.

Jamia Al Kareem Mosque, All Saints Road, Gloucester GL1 4EE

**Tradition:** Sunni

**Contact:** Anwar Limalia

**Tel:** 01452 506870

Masjid-e-Noor, 44-46 Ryecroft Street, Gloucester, GL1 4LY

**Tradition:** Sunni

**Contact:** Imam Hassan

Masjid E Noor Mosque, Gloucester, Gloucestershire

Website: <http://gloucestermosquevisit.co.uk>

Email: [imamshq@gmail.com](mailto:imamshq@gmail.com)

Masjid-e-Noor, 44-46 Ryecroft Street, Gloucester, GL1 4LY

**Tradition:** Sunni **Contact:** Ahmed Bham

Tel: 01452 416682 email [sabham@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:sabham@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Details:** Ahmed is Chair of Gloucester Inter Faith Action and also represents Muslim community on the SACRE. He deals with the issues of Islamic Faith and issues about contemporary British Muslim issues; offers workshop and lectures.

Khoja Shi'a Muslim Community of Gloucester Wainsbridge, 69 Bristol Road, Quedgeley, Gloucester GL2

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**Tradition:** Shi'a

Further information: All visitors remove shoes on entering prayer hall. **Females:** cover legs, arms, head

**Jehovah's Witnesses** are a religious group with more than eight million members throughout the world. They believe God will end the present system of things, which belongs to Satan, with its crime, violence, sickness and death; they believe it will be replaced with his Kingdom which will restore his original purpose for the Earth, bringing about peace for all humans who live by the Bible's standards.

Most of the religion's beliefs are based on the Bible. These beliefs were taught by Charles Taze Russell, a preacher who started a Bible study group in Pennsylvania in 1876, and later started publishing a religious magazine called The Watchtower.

Many of those beliefs, especially about who God is and what his plans are for humans and the earth, are different to what is taught in mainstream Christian churches. Jehovah's Witnesses believe that only 144,000 people will go to heaven and that the remaining people who obey God will live forever on a paradise Earth. They do not believe that God is a Trinity. They teach that when people die, they remain in their graves until Jesus Christ resurrects them after God's Kingdom, or government, is ruling over earth.

Witnesses are best known for preaching their beliefs from door-to-door and in other public places, and offering their magazines, *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* They are also well known for refusing to join armies and refusing blood transfusions.

Website: <https://www.jw.org/en/>

Kingdom Hall, Llanwye Close, Hereford HR1 1XX

Phone: 01989 768137



## Judaism:

Birmingham Hebrew Congregation

Based at Singers Hill Jewish Synagogue, Singer's Hill, Ellis St, Birmingham.

Tel: 0121 643 0884 Fax 0121 693 0883 Email: [office@singershill.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:office@singershill.freeserve.co.uk)

Website: <http://www.singershill.com>

Cheltenham Hebrew Congregation

The Synagogue, Synagogue Lane, St James Square, Cheltenham GL50 3PU

[www.cheltenhamsynagogue.org.uk](http://www.cheltenhamsynagogue.org.uk)

Contacts: Secretary Abigail Fisher [info@cheltenhamsynagogue.org.uk](mailto:info@cheltenhamsynagogue.org.uk)

Chair: Jenny Silverston [chair@cheltenhamsynagogue.org.uk](mailto:chair@cheltenhamsynagogue.org.uk)

Cardiff Reform Synagogue, Moira Terrace, Cardiff CF24 0EJ

Tel: (+44) 02920 491689 (Answer Machine)

<http://cardiffreformsynagogue.uk>

Contact: Schools Visits Administrator [izzyfull1@sky.com](mailto:izzyfull1@sky.com)

Cardiff Reform synagogue

Administrator for school visits: Mrs Maggie Kyiet, 8 Llandennis Green, Cunctoed CF23 6JX

Tel: 02920 750019 Mobile 07813 636709

Telephone Mrs Kyiet on either of the above numbers. She is happy to arrange a 1-2 hour visit for groups of no more than 50 pupils. Adults are in addition to this. The synagogue serves a community of 200 families. It was converted from a church in 1949 and is just off the Newport Road, on the Hereford side of Cardiff city centre. The synagogue makes a small charge of £25.00 per group to cover expenses. Pupils can take part in activities, touch artefacts, try on prayer shawls, look at the Torah scroll and watch as the candles are lit. Many schools have visited. The administrator has a small team of volunteers who help her make the visits as enjoyable and worthwhile as possible. A pupil pack if available from Mrs Kyiet.

If you wish to bring a party of students or members of staff to visit the synagogue, please send an email to [admin@CardiffReformSynagogue.uk](mailto:admin@CardiffReformSynagogue.uk) Our Schools Visits Administrator will be in touch to organise a mutually convenient time.

You will then receive further information about the procedure for visiting along with a welcome pack, information about parking etc.

Because of the large number of schools wishing to visit the synagogue we require at least six weeks notice of your visit. Please note that visits normally take place on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday mornings.

Please use email for arranging your visit and not the synagogue telephone or post as this will delay your application.

Bristol Hebrew Congregation

The Synagogue, 9 Park Row, Bristol BS1 5LP

<http://www.parkrowsynagogue.org/school-visits/>

Contact: Alex Schlesinger [education@parkrowsynagogue.org](mailto:education@parkrowsynagogue.org) or [info@parkrowsynagogue.org](mailto:info@parkrowsynagogue.org)

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Bristol and West Progressive Jewish Congregation

43 – 47 Bannerman Road, Easton, Bristol, BS5 0RR

<http://bwpjc.org/education/school-visits/>

Contact: Iris Segall via their website

Birmingham Hebrew Congregation

Singers Hill Synagogue, Birmingham, B1 1HL

<http://www.birminghamsynagogue.com/school-tours>

Contact: [office@singershill.com](mailto:office@singershill.com) or telephone 0121 643 0884

Cardiff United Synagogue, Cyncoed Gardens, Cardiff, CF23 5SL

<http://cardiffshul.org/>

Contact: [c.u.s@btinternet.com](mailto:c.u.s@btinternet.com) or telephone 029 20473728

Maurice Rollnick

Maurice is a member of Herefordshire SACRE and a member of the Herefordshire Liberal Jewish community.

He can be contacted by email: [mprollnick@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:mprollnick@tiscali.co.uk)

In addition the following Communities offer visits to their synagogues.

**Please use the contacts and websites for up to date detail such as numbers and ages of children welcomed, tours offered, booking details and any charges.**

Food or drink should not be brought into Synagogues; it has to be kosher. Head coverings please if possible, especially for boys, optional for girls.

Workshops for schools with Jane Silver Corren

Jane offers a wide variety of workshops exploring different aspects of Judaism for students and teachers from pre-school age to adult education. The workshops are also suitable for people with special needs. The 1-3 hour sessions include song, dance, storytelling and religious artefacts.

She is Jewish, has 30 years' experience teaching Jewish education in London and the South West and is a qualified occupational therapist with a degree in performing arts. Jane is happy to travel to Gloucestershire schools.

She charges an hourly rate and mileage charge for travel.

**Address:** The Trees, 26 Uplands, Walditch, Bridport, Dorset, DT6 4LE

**Email:** [janesilvercorren@gmail.com](mailto:janesilvercorren@gmail.com)

**Telephone:** 01308 459320 or 07887 675161



## Scientology

Scientology is a body of religious beliefs and practices developed in 1954 by American author L. Ron Hubbard. Hubbard initially developed a program of ideas called Dianetics, which was distributed through the Dianetics Foundation.

Website: <https://www.scientology.org.uk/>

Church of Scientology Birmingham, 123 Moor Green Lane, Moseley, Birmingham B13 8JN

Hours: Mon-Fri 9:30am - 10:00pm, Sat-Sun 9:00am - 6:00pm

Tel: 0121 655 0112

Website: <http://www.scientology-birmingham.org/>



## SIKHISM:

The nearest Sikh gurdwaras are in Bristol, Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Cardiff.

Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha, 18-20 Soho Road, Handsworth, Birmingham B21 9BH

**Tel:** 0121 551 1125

*School Comment: "A wonderful visit – the gurdwara offers 'langar' free meals 24 hours a day. Lots of prayer halls"*

Guru Nanak Gurdwara, 629-631 Stratford Rd, Birmingham B11 4LS **Tel:** 0121 771 0092

Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara, Sedgley St, Wolverhampton WV2 3AJ T: 01902 459413

Nanaskar That Sikh Gurdwara, Mander St. Wolverhampton WV3 0JZ T: 01902 429379

Sri Dasmals Singh Sabha Gurdwara Bhatra Sikh Centre, 97-103 Tudor Street, Cardiff CF11 6AE T: 0292 022 4806

This Gurdwara has been visited by many Welsh schools, primary and secondary. The Gurdwara will provide someone to show you around and respond to questions. Refreshments are provided. Write to the Secretary at the above address requesting a visit, giving details of the age group and numbers of pupils, possible dates and times of visits, together with your contact name and telephone number.

**Website:** <http://credo.ysgolccc.org.uk/addoldai/gurdwara/gurdwaraone.html> this website contains 14 images of the Bhatra Sikh Gurdwara for younger pupils. Follow the link to Places of worship in Wales to find a link to 16 images for older pupils.

**Contact:** Write to the Secretary at the above address requesting a visit, giving details of the age group and numbers of pupils, possible dates and times of visits, together with your contact name and telephone number.

**Tel:** 02920 224806

Wolverhampton: Inter faith group

**Main contact:** Wolverhampton Inter-faith Council and Faith Network

Office and resource centre: 2, Clarence Rd, Wolverhampton WV1 4HZ

Tel/Fax: 01902 427601 this number will give you the name and telephone number of the schools' coordinator.

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Email: [admin@wifg.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:admin@wifg.eclipse.co.uk)

This organisation organises the itinerary for visits and advises on dress codes and religious sensitivities. Contact the inter-faith group to arrange a visit a gurdwara in Wolverhampton.

## Other sources of information

### Places of worship – RE online

**Website:** <http://www.reonline.org.uk/specials/places-of-worship/>

This very useful site provides teachers with

- descriptions of the main places of worship
- links to places of worship that offer opportunities for educational visits around the country
- links to places of worship that can provide virtual tours
- advice about how to make a visit to a place of worship successful

RE Today for resources

And Finally.....

### Your help is needed

If you would like to recommend a visit or visitor to other schools to support teaching and learning in RE or can update the information in this document please let us know.

Please contact: Alison Naylor, School Improvement Adviser [anaylor@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:anaylor@herefordshire.gov.uk)