

Inter Faith Week for Schools

Activity and Event Ideas

Inter Faith
Week



The theme this year Community: Together We Serve is designed to reflect the fact that all faiths and beliefs have at their heart the ways in which we treat other people and contribute to stronger and safer communities. Whether it be the 'Golden Rule', the concept of sewa, or mutual aid, communities work together for our mutual benefit. Interfaith work can and should contribute significantly to this.

Quick wins – simple, creative activities:



Identity Bunting:

After some class discussion in which children talk about and share their home background, each student (pupils) designs a triangle to represent: their background, home, faith, belief, or culture. Join them together as bunting to decorate the school.



Teacher modelling:

Teachers might bring in food that is significant to their culture or background (with obvious attention paid to allergies etc). They might share a faith story or personal experience that has influenced their commitment to helping others.

Classroom-based activities with community links:



Faith Festival Calendar Challenge:

Students explore a calendar of faith festivals and non-religious occasions or special days (eg MLK Day) and plan a community event that is inclusive of different faith requirements and holidays. Present ideas through posters and presentations to teachers or local community members.



Guest Speakers Panel:

Work with your SACRE, local communities, RE Hubs, or the Faith & Belief Forum to host a panel of diverse local speakers and storytellers speaking on this year's theme: Community: Together We Serve. This could include how people work together to help the most needy or to support children, families, the elderly and why they think this is important.

School-wide and community events:



Interfaith Feast:

Students and local community members each bring food important to their faith, culture or background, sharing its story and significance.



Faith Trail / Visits:

Organise a visit or walking trail of local places of worship. Students prepare questions for faith communities on community and service, (e.g. How do you help others in the community? Whom do you help? Why do you do this? Why is important? What do you hope to achieve by doing it? Do you work with other faith or belief communities in this?) capturing answers along the way like a "treasure hunt."

Whole-School Celebration:



Cooking/nutrition:

Dishes from different cultures.



Music:

Songs or instruments from around the world



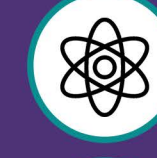
Art:

Portraits of social change activists, motivated by their Faith or Belief.



English:

Enter the Inter Faith Week poetry competition, and perform poems at the event.



Science:

Scientists from different cultures, faiths and beliefs.



Geography:

Where we all come from (poss a map of the UK or world with pins and thread to show different origins).



Languages:

The words for community, welcome, serving others, co-operation in different languages (hopefully many from within the school, on posters on the wall).

RE: explore the concept of service to others in different faiths and beliefs. Invite people from local faith and belief communities to join the celebration and share in the learning.

