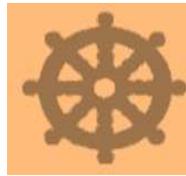


Visits and Visitors in Religious Education



Produced for
Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Updated May 2017

Visiting Places of Worship in Religious Education

Schools are encouraged to use this guide in conjunction with EVOLVE.

Evaluations of visits to places of worship submitted to EVOLVE will greatly support other schools in determining which places are most suitable to visit and of any points to consider in preparation and planning for a visit.

Should any details of contacts in this guide be found in need of updating, please advise the clerk to SACRE so that we might keep this guide as up to date as possible for the benefit of all who use it.

The use of visits add another dimension to RE by providing pupils with the opportunity of experiencing religion as a living part of the community. Possible places for RE visits include religious places of worship, places of pilgrimage, places of religious interest, exhibitions and events in museums or exhibition centres.

Developing a relationship

Many schools have found that the value of visits and visitors is greatly enhanced when a relationship is developed with a particular place of worship and the faith community that uses it. An ongoing relationship makes planning much easier; means that school and faith community alike know much better what to expect and how best to plan. Experience from one visit or visitor can be used to improve the next.

Planning a visit

Clearly, whenever a teacher plans a visit careful preparations should be made.

- The **objective of the visit** must be clear. The teacher must identify the purpose of the visit, and what the children are expected to learn from it. The experience must be suitable for the pupils' age, ability and interests. The objectives should be communicated to the faith community being visited, so that their preparations can be appropriate. Some faith communities will have people who can take an active part in the visit; others may be less confident about doing so or not be aware of what would be appropriate. Make sure that the potential for involvement is ascertained and discussed in advance.
- A **pre-visit** is suggested. It is important that teachers are familiar with the location and with the members of the faith community who will be welcoming the visit. During this visit teachers can note items of specific interest so that activities or trails can be prepared for the pupils. They can also conduct a risk assessment.
- **Dress code** - pupils should be prepared beforehand that some places of worship may require a dress code e.g. wearing of a head covering and the removal of shoes.
- **Behaviour** - pupils need to be aware that it would be considered disrespectful to chew or wander around or touch things without invitation. Moving quietly and respectfully is essential in a place of worship especially where people may be coming in and out for private prayer.

The visit

Teachers should ensure:

- a balance between items of specific interest and giving pupils the freedom to explore the building to satisfy their own interest;
- that pupils are given the opportunity to reflect and experience the atmosphere;
- that pupils are active participants during the visit. They should be encouraged to investigate and discover things for themselves; and
- that the visit can be a sensory experience with pupils given opportunities to touch, smell, and taste as well as to listen and see.

Follow-up work

During follow-up work pupils should have the opportunity to focus upon particular aspects of what they have experienced. They can generate their own questions that they would like to be answered. Pupils can find further information from reference books, websites, CD ROMs and other relevant resources. They can express their ideas through music and dance, arts and craft, role play, poetry and prose. They could also share their experiences with others through a school assembly.

Creative possibilities for preparation and follow-up

- A member of the church, with experience of children and young people, might be able to talk to the children from a first-hand understanding about key objects or beliefs.
- Members might be willing to be interviewed by the teacher about their personal experiences of being part of the faith community. Some have very interesting stories to tell.
- If the school has a media studies department they could create a film about the faith community, building and some of its members and their beliefs, which could then be used within the school or community.
- Art, music and drama departments could also be involved in discovering and telling the story of not just the building but also the lives and history of its members and how they relate their faith to their everyday life.

- Some faith communities have strong links with similar faith groups across the world. Increasingly some churches, for instance, are engaging in exchange visits with African churches. As these exchanges often involve a mix of social and spiritual activities, exploring these visits might open up a whole new area of study looking at faith, not just as what happens in the church or mosque etc but how faith influences lifestyle. These groups often involve young people who might resonate more with the pupils.
- Some churches / chapels might be willing to demonstrate a wedding or baptism in their building. This could launch or be the highlight of a variety of lessons on rites of passage.

Visitors

Inviting visitors to school can be a valuable experience for pupils. It is the school's prerogative to decide who they invite to visit. A key objective would be to ensure that the visitor provides a worthwhile educational experience for pupils.

Like visits, arranging for visitors to contribute to religious education or collective worship needs careful planning. The criteria and content for visitors' contributions will be different for collective worship, on the one hand, and an RE lesson, on the other. It is important that the school and the visitor understand this distinction.

Selecting a visitor

Visitors could include:

- Leaders of faith communities;
- Members of faith communities;
- Members of local organizations;
- Aid agencies;
- People who have recently visited a country which has religious or moral significance; and
- Overseas visitors who are visiting a local faith community.

Planning the visit

Whether for collective worship or RE, ensure the visitor is briefed on the following:

- the purpose of the visit;
- the age and ability of the pupils;
- the time allocated for the visit and what you hope will be achieved in the given time; and
- travelling instructions and plan of school campus.

Ensure that the visitor is aware that the school visit must not be used in order to impose their personal views upon pupils. The speaker must not denigrate other faiths or organisations in an attempt to promote their own.

Visitors from overseas, in particular, may come from countries where expectations are different. If direct briefing is not possible in advance, it is important that a trusted local contact be involved who is familiar with and can explain policy and practice in schools. It is your responsibility to do what you can to ensure that the visitor is likely to offer the quality of experience that you and the pupils expect. Ideally, you should meet the visitor in person prior to the visit. If in doubt, seek advice from a neighbouring school or a trusted member of the faith community concerned.

Preparation of pupils for visitors to an RE lesson

Prepare the pupils so that the visit is understood in its context.

- Discuss with the visitor where the visitor's contribution fits into the overall scheme of work and what the pupils already know about the topic to be discussed.
- Classwork prior to the visit should in some way relate to the theme of the visitor's presentation.
- Pupils should be encouraged to prepare questions to ask the visitor.
- Inform the class about behaving respectfully towards visitors and any artefacts they might use.

The day of the visit

- Plan the day carefully in order to allow adequate time to carry out any preparations e.g. arranging the classroom, setting up equipment.
- Arrange for a car parking place to be kept (if necessary), and for a designated person to meet the visitor on arrival, to offer refreshments or toilet facilities as needed, and try to ensure that the visitor feels at ease.
- The teacher should remain in the classroom during the lesson. The teacher needs to be in control of the session and can prompt pupils or the speaker to ensure that the discussion is relevant and that the objectives of the visit are achieved.
- At the end of the lesson, thank the visitor and ensure that they can leave the premises safely.
- A follow up letter from teacher and pupils would be appreciated.

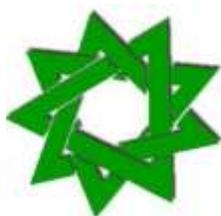
General points

Always keep careful records of all visitors – note the telephone numbers, addresses and how the visit went.

Remember to pass any point of interest to other RE teachers.

Where possible keep evidence of the visit. Log the visit on the EVOLVE system to assist in arranging your own future visits and to benefit other schools. You might like to take photographs of the lessons or even make a video. Ensure that the visitor is consulted beforehand regarding this matter.

Arranging a visit or visitor: useful contact addresses



BAHÁ'Í

For possible visit to schools:

Vale of Glamorgan SACRE member: **Dr Ramez Delpak** Tel: 01446 771053

Blaenau Gwent SACRE Member: **Mrs Christine Abbas** Tel: 01495 291784

Email: rabbas4280@aol.com

Monmouthshire SACRE Member : **Mrs Sue Cave** Tel: 01291 623402

Email: sue.cave@btopenworld.com

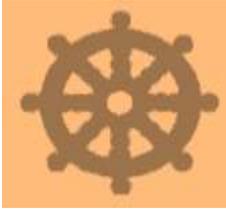
Sue has experience of working with nursery age children and was a former playgroup leader. She is willing to read / tell stories, sing and talk with the children about shared morals and values across religions.

Sue is also willing to work with KS2 and older pupils and can provide an educational workshop on 'Virtues and Values'.

For possible visit to secondary schools:

Mrs Roya Azordegan

Tel: 01600 860413



BUDDHISM

Cardiff Buddhist Centre

12 St. Peter`s Street
Roath,
Cardiff
CF24 3BA

Tel: 029 20462492

Contact name: Sue Sheppard - Centre Coordinator

Website: www.cardiffbuddhistcentre.com

E-mail: connect@cardiffbuddhistcentre.com

Additional Information:

Open to public 11 - 2pm, Wednesdays only. There is a library of Buddhist books, a bookshop and an emporium which sells incense, Buddhist figures and other Buddhist items.

Above information from website.

School visits are welcome. A maximum of 30 pupils is recommended. If a larger cohort of pupils wishes to visit, the Buddhist Centre is able to visit those schools.

Each visit lasts approximately 2 hours and the centre requests that pupils bring a series of pre – prepared questions to pose.

A donation of £40 is requested. Order Member Sarana Siri operates school visits.

Information obtained from Sue Sheppard 01/11/2016

Last updated November 2016

Lam Rim Buddhist Centre

Pentwyn Manor
Penrhos
Nr Raglan
Usk
Monmouthshire.
NP15 2LE

Tel: 01600 780 383

Website: www.lamrim.org.uk

Contact: Margaret Travis margaret@lamrim.org.uk

Additional Information:

School visits are normally either half day am or pm, or full day sessions.
KS2 topics supported include caring for the environment, belonging to a community, worship and meditation.
KS3 topics include Buddhism as a focused religion.
GCSE/A Level - provides a deeper insight into the Buddhist way of life.

Above information sourced from website.

Last updated November 2016

Aro Ling Cardiff
35 Merthyr Road
Whitchurch
Cardiff
CF14 1DB

or

5 Court Close,
Whitchurch
Cardiff
CF14 1JA

The Centre can only accommodate ten visitors at a time.

Website: <http://aro-ling.org/cardiff/>

Tel: 07875 716644

E-mail: aro.ling.cardiff@gmail.com

E-mail: enquiry@aro-ling.org

Contact person: Ngakma Nor'dzin Pamo

Above information sourced from website.

Last updated November 2016



CHRISTIANITY

Schools are encouraged to establish good links with the variety of Christian denominations accessible in their immediate locality.

Llandaff Cathedral

Llandaff

CARDIFF

CF5 2YF

Cathedral office: 029 20564554 (open 9:30am – 4:00pm Mon - Fri)

E-mail: Office@llandaffcathedral.org.uk

Website: www.llandaffcathedral.org.uk

Additional Information:

There are dedicated school tour guides. The duration of school tours are approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour. As much notice as possible, with a minimum of one month, is required for school visits given that Llandaff is a working cathedral. A maximum of 30 children per visit is recommended although smaller groups benefit from an improved experience.

The cathedral provides age and year group appropriate workbooks to support school visits. Year 6 “Meet the Bishop” sessions are run by the Bishop of Landaff at the Cathedral.

The cathedral does not have staff available to visit schools.

The cathedral welcomes donations if school funds allow, however, this should not prohibit visits.

Information obtained from website and following conversation with Nicola at Landaff Cathedral Office

Last updated November 2016

St Woolos Cathedral

Stow Hill,

Newport

NP20 4EA

Contact: 01633 412742

Sian King Cathedral Administrator: 07933 627 594

Email: enquiries@newportcathedral.org.uk

Website: www.newportcathedral.org.uk

St Woolos welcomes school visits and can accommodate several classes at a time. Pupils are provided with a Cathedral Trail booklet. School visits can be arranged by contacting Canon Jennifer Mole on: 01633 258556 or by email: revcanjen63@btinternet.com

Last updated January 2017

St David's Cathedral

Tŷ'r Pererin
Quickwell Hill
St Davids
SA62 6RJ

Telephone: 01437 729151

Contacts:

Janet Ingram - Education & Pilgrimage Officer

Clare Williams - Assistant Education & Pilgrimage Officer

Email: education@stdavidscathedral.org.uk

Website: www.stdavidscathedral.org.uk

Additional Information:

The cathedral offers pilgrimage days during the academic year. School visits are welcomed and can be accommodated at the following times:

Morning visits: 10am - 12noon

Afternoon visits: 12noon - 2:30pm

Full day visits: 10am - 2:30pm

The cathedral is happy to adapt activities to meet the needs of pupils with Special Educational Needs, if sufficient notice is provided. All resources required to complete activities will be provided.

Visits are chargeable at £2.50 per pupil for a full day visit and £1.50 per pupil for half day visits.

48 hour residential visits are also available at a cost of £38 per pupil staying in the "Bunk Barn". Residential visits include storytelling and outdoor activities. A maximum of 90 pupils can be accommodated.

The cathedral also runs Cathedral Explorers Trails on Tuesdays during school holidays.

The Education & Pilgrimage Officer may collaborate with Llandaff Cathedral to create "Make a Pilgrimage" days for Cardiff schools. Additional information available on request.

Last updated November 2016



HINDUISM

Shree Swaminarayan Temple

4, Merches Place
Grangetown
Cardiff
CF11 6RD

Tel: 029 20371128

Website: www.swaminarayanwales.org.uk

Email: info@swaminarayanwales.org.uk

Additional information:

Only morning school visits can be accommodated, by prior arrangement. Visits last for approximately 1 hour 15 minutes.

Visits consist of:

“Description and handling of religious artefacts

Playing traditional Indian musical instruments

Demonstrating “yoga”

Different symbols

Worksheets to accommodate school syllabus.

Hindu greetings and morning activities at home”

Activities listed above as stated on website

Last updated November 2016

Shree Kutchi Leva Patel Samaj

Mardy Street
Grangetown
Cardiff

Tel: 02920 372032



JUDAISM

Cardiff New Synagogue (Reform)

Moira Terrace
Cardiff
CF2 0EJ

Tel: 029 20491689

Contact: Louise Fuller

Email: schools@cardiffreformsyn.org.uk

Mob: 0771467781

Website: www.cardiffreformsyn.org.uk

Additional information:

The synagogue requires at least six week's notice of a visit. Visits usually take place on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday morning.

Visits are not recommended for pupils under 6 years.

The duration of visits is approximately 1 to 1hr 30 mins. Visitors can choose to receive a generic overview of the synagogue or following prior discussion with the visiting school's RE Coordinator visits can be tailored to meet the school's requirements. Activities include; holding a mock Jewish wedding, a discussion on festivals, writing in Hebrew and exploring Jewish life at home.

A maximum of 65 pupils is recommended.

A payment of £35 to cover the running costs of the synagogue is requested.

Teachers are also welcome to attend the Saturday morning service at the synagogue prior to visiting with their pupils. Should teachers wish to attend prior notice must be provided to Louise Fuller and proof of identification presented at the synagogue.

Last updated November 2016

Cardiff United Synagogue (Orthodox),
Cyncoed Gardens,
Cyncoed Road,
Cardiff

Office Tel: 029 20473728

Website: www.cardiffshul.org

Synagogue Office:

Ray Lawrence c.u.s@btinternet.com

Rabbi Rose rabbi@cardiffshul.org

Additional information:

Schools are most welcome to visit and visits are encouraged. Visitors to the Cardiff United Synagogue will gain an insight into the Jewish way of life and the history of Jewish communities and synagogues in Cardiff.

The synagogue accepts school visits on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at a cost of £1 per pupil or £25 whichever is greater. A maximum of 90 visitors can be accommodated at any one time.

Visits normally commence at 10:30 and last approximately for 1 hour to 1 hour 15 minutes.

Last updated January 2017



ISLAM

South Wales Islamic Centre

9, Alice Street
Butetown
Cardiff. CF10 5LB
Tel: 029 20460243
Website: southwalesislamiccentre.com
Email: info@southwalesislamiccentre.com

Dar – UI – Isra Muslim Welfare and Education Centre

21 – 23 Wyverne Road
Cathays
Cardiff
CF24 4BG
Tel: 029 2034 4073
Email: secretary@darulisra.org.uk

The mosque holds frequent open days and welcomes school visits. There is an excellent display answering common misconceptions about Islam. Please visit the link below for insight into school visits and open days.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-south-east-wales-32530762>

Jamia Masjid – Bilal

63 Severn Road
Canton
Cardiff.
Tel: 029 20 397640

Mosque Islamic Shikka Propieshtan

37 Plantagenet Street
Riverside
Cardiff. CF1 8RF
Tel: 029 20221309

Shah Jalal Mosque and Islamic Cultural Centre

3, Crwys Road
Cathays
Cardiff
Tel: 029 20480217

Muslim Welfare Association of the Vale of Glamorgan

Mosque
332 Holton Road
Barry
CF63 4HX
Contact person: Moawia Bin-Sufyan
Email: moawia.binsufyan@gmail.com

Berea Masjid

Berea Cottages,
Blaina,
Blaenau Gwent
NP13 3AD

Tel: 01495 723594
Dr Muzafar Jilani

Dr Muzafar Jilani and Fatma Jilani
01873 855565
jilanifatma@aol.com

Dr Jilani is the Chairman and Imam at Blaina mosque.
Fatma is the Muslim representative on Monmouthshire SACRE.
School visits to the mosque are most welcome.

Last updated November 2016



SIKHISM

Pearl Street Gurdwara

212a Pearl Street
Roath
Cardiff
CF24 1RD

Secretary for bookings: Mr Bhogal Tel: 029 20212435/Mob: 07710268593
Website: <http://sikhgurdwaracardiff.com>
E-mail: surinderchanna@hotmail.com

Additional Information:

Schools are welcome to visit the gurdwara Monday to Friday at no cost. Meaningful sessions would last a minimum of 1 hour 30 minutes. Pupils will receive a brief introduction to Sikhism. Children will be able to listen to a reading from the holy scripture and pupils will learn about how Sikhs worship. Refreshments will be provided free of charge, all food will be suitable for vegetarians. The gurdwara can accommodate as many pupils as the visiting school teachers consider appropriate.

Last updated November 2016

Bhatra Sikh Centre

97-103 Tudor Street
Riverside
Cardiff
CF11 6AE

Tel: 029 20224806 or 029 20256431
Schools Officer: Mr Bhogal Mob: 07710268593
Secretary: Jaswant

Additional information:

The gurdwara welcomes approximately 180 pupils per week. Please contact Mr Bhogal to arrange visits as above.

Last updated November 2016
