



Interfaith Scotland provides a forum for people from different religions and beliefs to dialogue with one another on matters of religious, national and civic importance.

There are many ways Interfaith Scotland can work with schools:

- Workshops on 'interfaith dialogue' can be led by staff and volunteers
- Resources such as videos, publications and religious artefacts
- Volunteer speakers from different faiths can come to the school
- Activities in the local community such as visiting places of worship, an interfaith meal, an interfaith quiz or sports event

1. Interfaith Dialogue workshops

We deliver interfaith workshops in schools across Scotland. We have a single and double period option for RME teachers. The workshops will introduce secondary school pupils to interfaith dialogue and give them the skills to utilise this tool in their communities and with their peer groups. A number of dialogue games can be used, for example the Conflict Spectrum game, Do's and Don'ts of dialogue, Dialogue Circle, Dialogue in Pairs. Through the session, we hope to encourage further social integration and active citizenship as well as enable pupils to challenge different opinions and beliefs respectfully through this method. Through interfaith dialogue, we believe that young people will gain a greater understanding of other religions, identify common values and feel better equipped to contribute positively to living in a multi-faith society.

2. Volunteer speakers on the different faiths

We have volunteers that we have trained to come into schools and share their faith journey with pupils and answer questions about what their faith means to them. Our volunteers are from all the major faith communities in Scotland. We can offer a single session on one faith (classroom or school assembly) or an 'interfaith day' or half day, meeting volunteers from a variety of faiths. This could take the form of a 'faith carousel' where pupils hear from several faiths in a day or morning/afternoon finishing with a panel with Q & A. Volunteers can also be accessed from local interfaith groups or perhaps a parent or a pupil at the school might be interested. School Interfaith Days have proved to be an excellent way to break down the negative stereotypes that young people may have about 'religious' people. At one high school, the feedback from a pupil was 'I never realised religious people could be so normal!'

3. Scottish Interfaith Week

We have specific resources for Scottish Interfaith Week. Pupils are encouraged to run and take part in local community events during the week: www.scottishinterfaithweek.org

4. Religious Artefacts

We have boxes of religious artefacts from six major religions in Scotland which can be borrowed from the office on an occasional basis. These include:

- Kinaesthetic Objects – e.g. tingsa, singing bowl for practising meditation
- Objects to wear – hijab, tallith, kippah
- Similar objects across faiths, e.g.
 - prayer beads from Buddhism, Sikhism, Islam and Catholicism
 - chalice and kiddush cup
 - incense in Hinduism, Buddhism, Catholic and Orthodox churches

5. Religious Objects Game

We have a game whereby pupils guess the objects from different world religions - there are six boxes, each with one object from each of the six world religions.

- What religion is this object from?
- What would this object be used for?
- What impact might this have on the person who uses it?

6. Role Play Activities

Role play activities are available from Interfaith Scotland.

7. Persona Dolls

These can be purchased from Articles of Faith magazine and are an effective way to counter bullying and discrimination. Further information can be found here: www.personadoll.uk

8. VIDEOS

We have a collection of helpful videos that can be viewed on our website here:

<https://interfaithscotland.org/resources/videos>

We also have an interactive DVD called 'Beyond Tolerance' which explores themes such as identity, social action, conflict and the media. The DVD includes a CD-Rom of activities to use with groups. Contact the Interfaith Scotland office for a copy.

WORKSHOPS

Workshops can be delivered by Interfaith Scotland staff on a variety of themes as below.

- 1. Our Life Journey** - Looking at the people, places, values, beliefs and experiences that have influenced our own life journeys.
- 2. Belief in Dialogue** - An introduction to interfaith dialogue skills with a number of fun and interactive activities.
- 3. Faith and Identity** - Looking at different aspects of our identity such as gender, culture, faith and belief.
- 4. The Impact of Faith and Interfaith today** - Looking at the impact of faith and interfaith dialogue on individuals, communities, Scotland and the world today.
- 5. Conflict to Co-operation** - Looking at what it means to respect people with different beliefs and backgrounds, along with some conflict resolution activities.
- 6. Religious Objects** - Matching religious objects to faiths, participants reflect on what the object means for the person and the impact it has on their lives.
- 7. Dialogue Dinner** - How to plan a dialogue dinner with fun and interactive dialogue activities throughout the meal on the topics of food and friendship.
- 8. Faith Book art activity** - Participants discuss the values that faiths have in common and make a small book of favourite quotes and scripture readings on different themes such as love, peace and gratitude.
- 9. Beyond Tolerance** - 'Beyond Tolerance' is an interfaith DVD which explores themes such as identity, social action, conflict and the media. The DVD includes a CD-Rom of activities to use with groups.
- 10. Religious Equality** - Looking at the importance of religious equality as a human right in Scottish society and how to promote this.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

The below covers themes that could be shared about interfaith dialogue during a school assembly or talk.

What is 'interfaith dialogue'?

Interfaith dialogue is when people from different religions and beliefs come together to talk, make friends and try to understand people better from different faiths and backgrounds. It can happen in lots of different ways such as making friends, going along to festival celebrations, visiting different places of worship, listening to a talk and having a discussion on a topic or volunteering together to help people.

Why is interfaith dialogue important?

Interfaith dialogue is useful throughout the world for many reasons:

- Meeting people from different faiths challenges negative stereotypes
- It builds stronger communities by creating greater trust and respect for people who are different and by learning what we share in common with one another
- It brings people together from different faiths to tackle social injustice
- It can be a tool for conflict resolution in areas of conflict in the world
- It supports religious equality and aims to ensure that the rights of people from different religions are upheld (such as the right to wear religious dress)
- It helps individuals in their own search for meaning, spiritual growth, acceptance and belonging through learning from others and being respected by them

What is Scottish Interfaith Week?

Scottish Interfaith Week gives people an opportunity to plan events to bring local people from different faiths and beliefs together to promote dialogue, understanding and co-operation between Scotland's diverse faith and belief communities.

Interfaith Organisations in Scotland

National level - Interfaith Scotland is a national organisation which runs interfaith dialogue activities in schools, with women's groups, faith communities, religious leaders, members of Interfaith Scotland and local interfaith groups. Interfaith Scotland has members from all the main faiths in Scotland and it supports the work of local interfaith groups throughout Scotland. You can find out more about Interfaith Scotland on their website: www.interfaithscotland.org.

Local level - There are 20 local interfaith groups in Scotland from Shetland to Dumfries. You can find out more about these groups at www.interfaithscotland.org/local-interfaith-groups/