

Visits and visitors for Religious Education

**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)
2018**

Compiled in 2018 by Gloucestershire SACRE

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Guidance and contacts

This directory has been compiled to support the work of schools in Gloucestershire and to encourage increased links with local faith communities and beliefs.

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 Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus for RE (2017-2022).

The valuable educational experience which can be gained by visiting places of worship is dependent upon the goodwill of the communities. It is essential that visits are planned carefully in conjunction with members of the faith communities and that there is utmost respect for people's sensitivities and traditions both in the place of worship and in the surrounding area.

Using people and places as a resource for Religious Education

Visits are a useful resource and add another dimension to RE by providing pupils with the opportunity of experiencing religion as a living vibrant community. Visits can be used as a stimulus to start a piece of work or to reinforce learning undertaken in the classroom.

Encounter and dialogue with people from different religions and beliefs is a key way of encouraging and developing respect. It is also a key way of building understanding of the role religion and belief plays in the lives of individuals and communities. Both are important aims of Religious Education.

Safeguarding and visits to places of worship

Every school is required to have an Educational Visits Coordinator to comply with safeguarding demands. Local Authorities are focused on health and safety as well as safeguarding, and as schools implement more stringent requirements, you will need to find out about the health and safety and safeguarding expectations of the places you wish to visit. You should ask faith leaders whose venues you wish to visit, for sight of their Health and Safety policies and risk assessments.

Any building open to the public will have a Public Liability Insurance Certificate that will have required the completion of a risk assessment; most venues also have their own Health and Safety policy, all of which cover their internal programme of events.

Most visiting speakers will not be in 'regulated activity' and so will not necessarily have a DBS certificate to present. Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2016) paragraph 138 states:

Schools and colleges do not have the power to request DBS checks and barred list checks, or ask to see DBS certificates, for visitors (for example children's relatives or other visitors attending a sports day). Headteachers and principals should use their professional judgment about the need to escort or supervise visitors.

As part of the S175 audit, schools are asked how they make visitors aware of their safeguarding policy. Many schools have a visitors' information leaflet that explains fire arrangements and who to go to if they have concerns.

Guidance for teachers planning a pupil visit to a place of worship

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

Before you go:

- 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.
- 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.
- Follow your school and setting policies and procedures regarding organising educational visits, ensuring that you are compliant with national statutory guidance and local guidance where necessary, for example Keeping Children Safe, LA Guidance on Health and Safety.
- 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. Identify ways in which the visit will be followed up back in the classroom.

Some key points to remember when visiting faith communities

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 covering.
 - No food and drink or cigarettes 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.

Behaviour – normal 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.

Note that **school teachers should take responsibility for pupils' behaviour and attitudes**. They should not abdicate responsibility for this to the hosts.

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.

- *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.
- *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.

Guidance for faith communities: schools visiting places of worship

- Many schools would like to plan visits to local places of worship into their RE lessons, but either do not know how to make the first approach or what to expect when they have made contact.
- 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!
- If possible try to arrange to have some community members present. These shouldn't just be ordained leaders, but should include some 'lay' people 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.
- 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.
- Ask for a copy of the Code of Conduct (see below).

Code of conduct for visitors of faith and belief going into schools

Schools can provide rich opportunities for pupils by welcoming visitors from local religious and non-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.

The most effective way for visitors to engage with the school community and deepen understanding of their beliefs and practice is to take part in the regular programme of teaching and learning, rather than make an isolated or one-off contribution to the curriculum. Consider whether you could do this; but if not, there is still enormous value to be gained from a single visit.

Visitors from communities of religion and belief taking part in the life of a school should:

- be familiar with the school's aims, ethos and policies, and plan their involvement in the light of the aims of the curriculum at the school
- make clear to pupils who they are, who they represent, and what their aims are
- be willing to share their own experiences, beliefs and insights, but avoid criticising the experience and insights of others, and avoid imposing their views upon pupils in any way
- be willing to respect the right of the pupils and adults in the school to hold views that may be different from their own
- establish with the school just what they are looking for from the visit, the prior knowledge of the pupils – themes and topics studied previously, for example, so that they can pitch their contribution appropriately – and the intended outcomes for the current unit of work
- seek to use engaging teaching and learning methods that involve the pupils actively, planning their presentation to fit with the aspect of religion or worldviews pupils are learning about, and to communicate at appropriate levels for the age group(s) concerned
- avoid lengthy monologues and use straightforward language, explaining technical terms clearly
- develop ways of speaking to pupils that communicate their open approach, avoiding any hidden agenda to 'convert' or proselytise. This applies to representatives from non-religious communities as well as religious ones.
- A key question to help visitors reflect on their approach, imagining themselves having their own children on the receiving end: *'If a member of another religion or representative of forms of non-religious belief visited my child's school and contributed in the same way as I have done, would I, as a parent, be happy with the education given?'*

Adapted from *Voices of faith and belief in schools: Guidance and a Code of Conduct*
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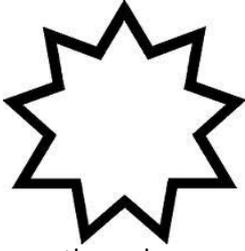
Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus 2017: Key questions

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The following key questions give the context for involving visitors from faith communities and visiting local places of worship.

For full details see the Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus 2017.

Foundation Stage	KS1	Lower KS2	Upper KS2	KS3
<p>F1 Why is the word God so important to Christians?</p> <p>F2 Why is Christmas special for Christians?</p> <p>F3 Why is Easter special for Christians?</p> <p>F4 What places are special and why?</p> <p>F5 What times /stories are special and why?</p> <p>F6 Being special: where do we belong?</p>	<p>1.1 What do Christians believe God is like?</p> <p>1.2 Who do Christians say made the world?</p> <p>1.3 Why does Christmas matter to Christians?</p> <p>1.4 What is the 'good news' Christians believe Jesus brings?</p> <p>1.5 Why does Easter matter to Christians?</p> <p>1.6 Who is a Muslim and how do they live?</p> <p>1.7 Who is Jewish and how do they live?</p> <p>1.8 What makes some places sacred to believers?</p> <p>1.9 How should we care for others and the world, and why does it matter?</p> <p>1.10 What does it mean to belong to a faith community?</p>	<p>1.1 What do Christians learn from the Creation story?</p> <p>L2.2 What is it like for someone to follow God?</p> <p>L2.3 What is the 'Trinity' and why is it important for Christians?</p> <p>L2.4 What kind of world did Jesus want?</p> <p>L2.5 Why do Christians call the day Jesus died 'Good Friday'?</p> <p>L2.6 For Christians, what was the impact of Pentecost?</p> <p>L2.7 What do Hindus believe God is like?</p> <p>L2.8 What does it mean to be Hindu in Britain today?</p> <p>L2.9 How do festivals and worship show what matters to a Muslim?</p> <p>L2.10 How do festivals and family life show what matters to Jewish people?</p> <p>L2.11 How and why do people mark the significant events of life?</p> <p>L2.12 How and why do people try to make the world a better place?</p>	<p>U2.1 What does it mean if Christians believe God is holy and loving?</p> <p>U2.2 Creation and science: conflicting or complementary?</p> <p>U2.3 Why do Christians believe Jesus was the Messiah?</p> <p>U2.4 How do Christians decide how to live? 'What would Jesus do?'</p> <p>U2.5 What do Christians believe Jesus did to 'save' people?</p> <p>U2.6 For Christians, what kind of king is Jesus?</p> <p>U2.7 Why do Hindus want to be good?</p> <p>U2.8 What does it mean to be a Muslim in Britain today?</p> <p>U2.9 Why is the Torah so important to Jewish people?</p> <p>U2.10 What matters most to Humanists and Christians?</p> <p>U2.11 Why do some people believe in God and some people not?</p> <p>U2.12 How does faith help when life gets hard?</p> <p>NOTE: For Church schools, two additional units are provided in the <i>Understanding Christianity</i> materials: <i>How can following God bring freedom and justice?</i> <i>What difference does the Resurrection make for Christians?</i></p>	<p>3.1 What does it mean for Christians to believe in God as Trinity?</p> <p>3.2 Should Christians be greener than everyone else?</p> <p>3.3 Why are people good and bad?</p> <p>3.4 Does the world need prophets today?</p> <p>3.5 What do people do when life gets hard?</p> <p>3.6 Why do Christians believe Jesus was God on earth?</p> <p>3.7 What is so radical about Jesus?</p> <p>3.8 The Buddha: how and why do his experiences and teachings have meaning for people today?</p> <p>3.9 Why don't Hindus want to be reincarnated and what do they do about it?</p> <p>3.10 What is good and what is challenging about being a Muslim teenager in Britain today?</p> <p>3.11 What is good and what is challenging about being a Jewish teenager in the UK today?</p> <p>3.12 How are Sikh teachings on equality and service put into practice today?</p> <p>3.13 What difference does it make to be an atheist or agnostic in Britain today?</p> <p>3.14 Good, bad; right, wrong: how do I decide?</p> <p>3.15 How far does it make a difference if you believe in life after death?</p> <p>3.16 Why is there suffering? Are there any good solutions?</p> <p>3.17 Should happiness be the purpose of life?</p> <p>3.18 How can people express the spiritual through the arts?</p>



The Bahá'í Faith

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'ís 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'í Faith has over five million followers worldwide, and is represented in more than 200 countries and territories.

There are Bahá'í communities in Cheltenham, Gloucester, Stroud and Tewkesbury. 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.

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

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

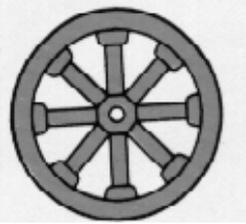
Contact: Jenny Lockwood

Tel: 01242 676597 or 07789 818361

Email: illumine.jl@gmail.com

Can offer: Assemblies, assistance in lessons and interfaith activities, visits to Bahá'í events oriented toward young people (this last may be out of county). Visitors have experience working with primary and secondary age groups.

We can also offer speakers competent to present and debate the spiritual dimension of specific topic areas, e.g. science and religion; the advancement of women; environmental challenges.



Buddhism

The major Buddhist groups in the UK are Theravada (especially Sri Lankan schools and the Thai Forest Tradition), Tibetan (including Kagyu and Gelugpa schools) and Triratna. Triratna was set up in 1967 as the Friends of the Western Buddhist Order and has spread around the world. It aims to offer an expression of the Buddhist path that is suitable for contemporary Westerners.

Triratna:

Adhithana, Coddington, Near Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 1JL

Adhithana is a Buddhist retreat centre in beautiful surroundings to the west of the Malvern Hills. The centre is busy with courses for Buddhists but they are beginning to look to how they can welcome school groups.

Contact: Matthew admin@adhithana.org

Website: <https://adhithana.org/>

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

Tel: 0117 924 9991 **Email:** info@bristol-buddhist-centre.org

Website: www.bristol-buddhist-centre.org

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.

Manchester Buddhist Centre / The Clear Vision Trust

16-20 Turner Street, Manchester, M4 1DZ

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

Email: education@clear-vision.org or groupvisits@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.

Birmingham Buddhist Centre Website: www.birminghambuddhistcentre.org.uk

Email: info@birminghambuddhistcentre.org.uk

Japanese Pure Land tradition:

Amida Mandala Buddhist Temple

34 Worcester Road, Malvern, QR14 4AA

Amida Mandala is a Pureland Buddhist Temple in the heart of Malvern, Worcestershire in the UK. It is the headquarters for the Amida Trust in the UK and also home for the UK Amida Order.

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

Enquiries: Tel: 01684 572444. You can email hello@amidamandala.com with any enquiries,

Theravada tradition:

The Forest Hermitage

Lower Fulbrook, Warwickshire, CV35 8AS

The Forest Hermitage is part of the Thai Forest Tradition. It is able to host school visits and can also visit schools. Please email schools@foresthermitage.org.uk for more information.

Website: <https://foresthermitage.org.uk/>

The Forest Hermitage is the headquarters of ANGULIMALA, the Buddhist Prison Chaplaincy Organisation. <https://angulimala.org.uk/>

Local Buddhist (Cheltenham)

Contact: Ivan Hatvany

Ivan first studied Buddhism as part of his Philosophy degree thirty years ago. Since then he has studied and practiced meditation under the guidance of three 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.

Tel: 01242 577215 **Email:** ivanhatvany@gmail.com

Can offer: teaching sessions on Buddhism in local secondary schools



Christianity

Church of England Diocese of Gloucester

The Church of England has 390 churches within 9 deaneries in the Diocese of Gloucester. The Education Department at the Diocese of Gloucester can advise schools of the contact details of their local parish priest and other local Christian speakers.

For specific advice on RE, please contact Debbie Helme, Diocesan Education Officer
dhelme@glosdioc.org.uk or 01452 835550

Following the closure of the Diocesan Resource Centre, access to RE resources is now available through **Library Services for Education**. This is a traded service which will be available on their system in the next few days. The costs are as follows.

A choice of two options for annual subscription:

- a. £18 per class or year group per year – you will need to collect and return resources to LSE's premises in Cheltenham at the end of each (long) term. This will allow you to borrow one set of RE resources per class/year (which may consist of two units, as you have in the past) and two values boxes per term. If you wish to borrow resources for the summer term you will need to collect them from the Resource Centre by Friday 20 April.
- b. £30 per class or year group per year for resources as above, including transport (LSE will deliver and collect your resources). Transport starts with collection in July. (If you wish to borrow resources for the summer term you will need to collect them from the Resource Centre by Friday 20 April.)

There is also the option for one-off borrowing:

- Pay as you go – standard RE unit box (ie box of artefacts and other resources tailored to one of the syllabus units) for one long term delivered and collected £25
- Pay as you go – 2 Values boxes for one long term delivered and collected £15

Full details:

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schoolsnet/gccplus/library-services-for-education/re-resources/

Gloucester Cathedral

Education Centre, St Mary's Gate, St Mary's Street, Gloucester, GL1 2QR **Contacts:** Education Officer: Sarah Law

Tel: 01452 521010

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

Email: education@gloucestercathedral.org.uk

Able to offer: RE-focused educational visits to the Cathedral are available for Foundation Stage to Post-16 students. RE-based trails are linked to the RE in the Gloucestershire Agreed Syllabus but can be adapted to meet your specific needs. 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 to 60 children on a joint Synagogue/Cathedral trip.

Tewkesbury Abbey

Abbey Office, Church Street, Tewkesbury, Glos

Tel: Abbey Office 01684 850959

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

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

Roman Catholic Church

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, Alexander House, 160 Pennywell Road, Bristol, BS5 0TX

Tel: 0117 902 5593 **Email:** colleen.collett@cliftondiocese.com

Visits to local Roman Catholic churches

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>

For Prinknash Abbey: See <http://www.prinknashabbey.org> E-mail: prinknash.abbey@parish.cliftondiocese.com

Baptist Church

There are many Baptist Churches in Gloucestershire. 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

Cirencester Baptist Church, Chesterton Lane, Cirencester, GL7 1YE

Contact: Revd Bob Morris, Youth Pastor **Tel.** 01285 885636 Email: Misterdotbob@aol.com

Website: <http://www.cirencester-baptist.org/>

'We are happy to explore the possibility of primary and secondary schools visiting the building and hearing what takes place in a Baptist setting both midweek and at Sunday worship.'

Methodist Church

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

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

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

Salvation Army

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

Contact: The Commanding Officer

Email: 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 Gloucestershire, from Cheltenham to Wotton-under-Edge 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

Contact: Judith Roles judith@roles.org.uk Tel: 07765 111404

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 **Tel:** 01453 519090

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

Website: www.urcwestmidlands.org.uk

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) CE; Holy Trinity (Stroud) CE; 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 CE.



Christian Aid

9 College Green, Gloucester GL1 2LX **Tel:** 01452 309115

Website: www.christian-aid.org.uk

Children and teachers: www.globalgang.org.uk

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 three Unitarian worshipping communities in Gloucestershire: Cheltenham, Gloucester and Cirencester.

Unitarians have their roots in the Christian tradition, but see God as a unity - one, not Trinity - three-in-one. They encompass a wide variety of beliefs and do not have a particular creed or set of doctrines that Unitarians must follow. Unitarians stress 'individual freedom of belief, the free use of reason within religion, a united world community, and liberal social action' (www.unitarian.org.uk/pages/faith)

Unitarian Website – for more information: www.unitarian.org.uk

Contact: Rev Don Phillips

Email: Don.Phillips@btinternet.com

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

Website: www.cheltenhamandgloucesterunitarians.org.uk/

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



Hinduism

Gloucestershire Hindu community

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:

www.bbc.co.uk/gloucestershire/untold_stories/asian/hindu_community.shtml or
www.irespect.net/Untold%20Stories/Asian/index.htm

Daxa Mehta - Hindu Workshops for schools

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

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

Email: daxajmehta@gmail.com **Website:** www.helloindia.co.uk

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

Cardiff Swaminarayan Temple

4 Merches Place, Grangetown, Cardiff, CF1 6RD

Tel: 029 2039 4769

Contact: President of the Hindu Mandir

Website: 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.

Wolverhampton

Main contact: Wolverhampton Inter-faith group,

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

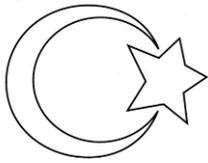
Tel/Fax: 01902 427601

Email: interfwolv@aol.com

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

Shree Krishna Hindu Temple 123 Penn Road, Wolverhampton School comment: *' a great experience'*

School Advice: *ensure you have a clear speaking guide who can communicate at a level appropriate to children.*



Islam

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

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.

Mosques in Gloucester:

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

Tradition: Sunni

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: imamshg@gmail.com

Khoja Shi'a Muslim Community of Gloucester, Wainsbridge, 69 Bristol Road, Quedgeley, Gloucester GL2 6NE

Tradition: Shi'a

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

Worcester Mosque

Tallow Hill, Worcester WR5 1JU
Phone: 01905 20005

Central Masjid Worcester

86 Lowesmoor , WR1 2SB
worcestercentralmasjid@gmail.com
Contact: Ali Ahmed: 07540251527

Birmingham Central Mosque

180 Belgrave Middleway,
Highgate, Birmingham
United Kingdom B12 0XS

Tel: 0121 440 5355

Email: enquiries@centralmosque.org.uk

Website: www.centralmosque.org.uk

For Group Visits: 0121 440 5355

<https://centralmosque.org.uk/about/visiting-the-mosque/>

Islamic Exhibition around the corner from the Mosque: <http://www.islamic-exhibition.org/>

Speaker:

Atique Miah works part time, as Muslim Chaplain for Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (**since Oct 2017**) and University of Gloucestershire (**since Apr 2016**).

He runs active, engaging workshops on Islam, tailored to suit the audience. He does not represent any established organisation within the Muslim community of Gloucestershire but can talk about Islam as a lived experience in the UK.

Contact to discuss and book sessions (please give at least two weeks' notice):

- atique.miah@live.co.uk
- 01452 226554 (please leave voicemail if no answer)

Atique asks for a contribution of £20/hour, including travel expenses.



Judaism

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.

Cheltenham Hebrew Congregation

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

www.cheltenhamsynagogue.org.uk

Contacts: Secretary Abigail Fisher info@cheltenhamsynagogue.org.uk

Chair: Jenny Silverston chair@cheltenhamsynagogue.org.uk

Bristol Hebrew Congregation

The Synagogue, 9 Park Row, Bristol BS1 5LP

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

Contact: Alex Schlesinger education@parkrowsynagogue.org or info@parkrowsynagogue.org

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 or telephone 0121 643 0884

BPS Birmingham Progressive Synagogue

1 Roseland Way, Birmingham B15 1HD

<http://www.bpsjudaism.com/>

Contact: 0121 634 3888 or office@bpsjudaism.com

Modern synagogue, near Fiveways. No fee, but donation welcome (£60)

Cardiff Reform Synagogue

Moiria Terrace, Cardiff CF24 0EJ

<http://cardiffreformsynagogue.uk/>

Contact: Schools Visits Administrator c/o admin@CardiffReformSynagogue.uk

Cardiff United Synagogue

Cyncoed Gardens, Cardiff, CF23 5SL

<http://cardiffshul.org/>

Contact: c.u.s@btinternet.com or telephone 029 20473728

Workshops on Judaism 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, story-telling 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

Telephone: 01308 459320 or 07887 675161



Sikhism

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

Birmingham

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

Cardiff

Sri Dasmis Singh Sabha Gurdwara Bhatra Sikh Centre,

97-103 Tudor Street, Cardiff CF11 6AE **Tel:** 029 2022 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.

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.

Leamington Spa

Gurdwara Sahib, Leamington & Warwick

Tachbrook Park Drive, Leamington Spa, CV34 6RH.

www.gurdwara-leamingtonandwarwick.com/

This large gurdwara in Leamington Spa is now organising tours for schools. For further details, send all enquiries to: tours@gurdwara-leamingtonandwarwick.com

Wolverhampton

Main contact: Interfaith Wolverhampton. This organisation organises the itinerary for visits to various places of worship in Wolverhampton, and advises on dress codes and religious sensitivities. Contact the inter-faith group to arrange a visit a gurdwara in Wolverhampton.

Tel/Fax: 01902 427601 (Mike Shelley-Smith)

Website: www.ifwton.org.uk **Email:** admin@ifwton.org.uk



Secular Philosophies: Humanism

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.

Contact: Hannah Hart (Secretary) 01242 516083 / 07914 613522

Email: gloshums@gmail.com

Website: www.glos.humanist.org.uk/

The group can also be found on Facebook and Twitter

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

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 may call themselves humanists and this combination of attitudes is called Humanism.

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/>

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

And finally ... your help is needed:

Schools: if you would like to recommend a visit or visitor to other schools to support teaching and learning in RE, please let us know.

Faith communities: if you would like schools to visit you or you can offer visitors to schools to support their work in Religious Education, please let us know.

Please contact: Nicola Hanman, Clerk to SACRE

Email: nicola.hanman@gloucestershire.gov.uk **Tel:** 01452 583680

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