

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

14th November 2011

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for People

Explore Islam and Interfaith week November 20-26th

1 Purpose of Report

1.1 To brief members of SACRE on Explore Islam November 14th-18th and the opportunities for Interfaith week November 20-26th

2 Summary

2.1 Staffordshire Education Transformation in association with partners will be offering opportunities for Staffordshire schools throughout interfaith week.

3 Recommendation

3.1 That members of SACRE receive the summary and note its contents.

4 Background

4.1 Members will be briefed on all events which are taking place. A summary is attached to this paper.

5 Equal Opportunities

5.1 This report has been prepared in accordance with the County Council's policies on equal opportunities.

6 Financial implications

6.1 There are no immediate financial implications

Contact Officer
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Inter faith
week 20th
26th and
Explore
Islam 14th – 18th
November 2011



National Inter Faith Week takes place this year from Sunday 20 to Saturday 26 November in England, Northern Ireland and Wales. Information about the Week can be found on the Inter Faith Week website: www.interfaithweek.org.

The Week aims to strengthen good inter faith relations at all levels, and to increase awareness of the faith communities in the UK, celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society. It also aims to increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs.

Last year, the Week was marked in many schools and RE teachers played an important part in organising events such as classroom discussions in RE about inter faith relations; class visits to local places of worship; and exhibitions with stalls about different faith communities. A list of event ideas and resources developed by NATRE and NASACRE to aid schools in marking the Week are available here: <http://www.interfaithweek.org/index.php/resources>

How can my school get involved?

This year we are pleased to offer a range of exciting opportunities for Staffordshire schools. Schools can invite a person of faith to come and speak to students in school, take their pupils to visit a faith building or visit the 'Explore Islam' exhibition.

People of faith:

The following people have offered to visit Staffordshire schools during this year's Inter faith week to contribute to lessons and/or lead assemblies. The Staffordshire RE website provides contact details for people of all faiths:

<http://education.staffordshire.gov.uk/Curriculum/Subjectareas/ReligiousEducation/visits/>

Places of faith:

Stafford's Sikh **Gurdwara** on Tithe Barn Road will be opening its doors to schools on the 23rd and 25th of November. If you would like to arrange a visit please see the attached flyer.

Explore Islam will be taking place at Staffordshire University between 14th – 18th November. If you would like to arrange a visit please see the attached flyer.

For further information on these and many more available opportunities see the '**places to visit**' section of the Staffordshire RE website:

<http://education.staffordshire.gov.uk/Curriculum/Subjectareas/ReligiousEducation/placestovisit/>

Staffordshire University and Staffordshire Education Transformation Division

Invite Staffordshire schools
to

Explore Islam

Staffordshire University, The Gallery, Beaconside, ST18 0AD
14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th November 2011

An opportunity to explore Islam and get answers to any questions you may have. The event will be supported by volunteers from the local Muslim community

Learn about Muslim beliefs and values
Follow the route of the pilgrimage
Find out about life in a Muslim home

The exhibition is especially suitable for pupils in Key Stages 2 and 3
With notice, special arrangements can be made for students in Key Stage 4 and Post-16

Allow approximately 90 minutes per visit

Places are limited. Please use the slip below to book
Time slots will be allocated on a first come, first served basis

✂

I would like to book a time slot for the 'Explore Islam' exhibition at Staffordshire University

Name:

School:DCSF no:

Contact no:

Preferred date:

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| 14 th Nov | |
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| 15 th Nov | |
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| 16 th Nov | |
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| 17 th Nov | |
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| 18 th Nov | |
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Preferred time:

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| 10.00 | |
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| 1.15 | |
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Number of pupils/students: Year Groups:

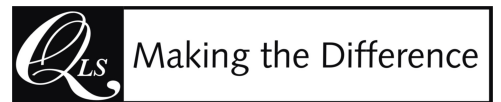
Signed:

Schools will be contacted following the closing date whether or not their application has been successful.

Please return by email emma.senior@staffordshire.gov.uk



**Stafford's Nanaksar Gurdwara and
Staffordshire Education**



Making the Difference
Education Transformation Division

Transformation Division

Invite Staffordshire schools
to

Discover Sikhism

Nanaksar Gurdwara, 90 Tithe Barn Road, Stafford, ST16 3PQ

24rd and 25th November 2011

Members of Sikh Gurdwara will lead this opportunity to discover Sikhism
and to answer any questions.

**Take a tour around the Gurdwara
Learn about Sikh belief and practice
Share in the langar**

The exhibition is especially suitable for pupils in Key Stages 1, 2 and 3
With notice, special arrangements can be made for students in Key Stage 4 and Post-16

Points to note: In keeping with Sikh practice, all visitors will be offered a drink and food (usually a biscuit). Appropriate permissions will need to be arranged. Girls and boys will need to cover their heads. Head coverings will be available for all at the Gurdwara. If visitors prefer to bring their own, then a scarf is appropriate. Shoes must be removed just inside the main door. Adults should dress respectfully. Sikh women would cover their arms and legs, but modest clothing (trousers or a long skirt) is appropriate for visiting women. There is no problem if children's arms and legs are not covered however this could be a good learning point to discuss. It is likely that visitors will need to sit on the floor, so loose, comfortable clothing is helpful. The Gurdwara can accommodate 60 people. A donation to the Gurdwara is not required. However if schools wish to make a contribution, it is suggested that 50p per pupil up to a maximum of £25 would be acceptable.

Allow approximately 60 minutes per visit

Places are limited. Please use the slip below to book
Time slots will be allocated on a first come, first served basis

✂

I would like to book a time slot for '**Discover Sikhism**' at the Nanaksar Gurdwara, Tithe Barn Road, Stafford, November 2010

Name:

School:DCSF no:

Contact no:

Preferred date:

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| 24 rd Nov | |
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| 25 th Nov | |
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Preferred time:

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| 10.00 | |
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| 1.15 | |
|------|--|

Number of pupils/students: Year Groups:

Signed:

Schools will be contacted following the closing date whether or not their application has been successful.

Please return by email (emma.senior@staffordshire.gov.uk)

by **Thursday 17th November 2011**