

Supporting and enriching Religious Education in schools and the local community

Established in 1981, the Open Centre is a well-respected organisation that exists to promote understanding between different communities by celebrating and raising awareness of different faiths and our communities local, cultural heritage. We promote good community relations between British citizens, no matter what their background or belief. As part of our activities we work closely with many different communities, faith organisations and places of worship as well as representatives of secular organisations; however the Open Centre is not a religiously based organisation and has no affiliation to any specific faith based groups. We have a close partnership with both Derby City and Derbyshire County Councils. It is a co-opted member of both Derby and Derbyshire Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education (**SACRE**). Over the years we have worked hard to ensure that our faith trails and workshops support the local agreed syllabus. Due to our commitment and dedication we are able to work and support **over 10,000 children and adults** each and **every year**.



However we are still eager to spread our message further and if you are interested in learning more about these areas; please visit our website <http://www.derbyopencentre.org/>.

‘Our Heritage’ Project

The Open Centre and Heritage Lottery came together for a brand new exhibition and learning resource entitled ‘Our Heritage’. The exhibition explored issues of faith, culture and the legacy of multicultural Britain. It was housed in the upstairs gallery of Derby Market Hall, the project is working with schools, community groups and artists, celebrating the history of Derby’s multicultural heritage through a series of films and images.



As it is now September, the ‘Our Heritage’ project has come to a close after being a great success. We would like to say a big ‘thank you’ to St Martins School for all their help and support during our Gallery 5 exhibition. We have received lots of positive feedback regarding the exhibition and are looking into future projects which can explore these ideas further.

Would you like to explore ‘Our Heritage’ further...?

If your school or business are interested in having a similar exhibition, we have a mobile version of the exhibition which can be set up and utilised as an additional teaching resource in your setting. *Please contact The Open Centre for more information—01332 360737.*

A new start...

As September has started, we have begun a new start in a number of different ways. We have moved from our old premises on Charnwood Street to our new one at 152 Pear Tree Road (next to Pear Tree Baptist Church). We are hoping that this will be a more suitable location as it is centrally located to all local places of worship and has plenty of room to hold workshops. To ensure our new office represents The Open Centre's positive ethos, we have managed to utilise the panels from the static exhibition and include them to create a vibrant; yet interactive additional learning space for all visitors to the Open Centre to use and explore.



In addition to a new office, we also welcome a new manager to the company. Sam Mitchell has joined our team from the education sector, where she was a teacher for a number of years and wishes to continue promoting the core values of the Open Centre through her work.

"My main aim is to utilise and build on the current foundations of the Open Centre to help generate more schools visits, workshops and faith trails alongside building a more established relationship with the local community."

If you are interested in becoming a part of the Open Centre, please don't hesitate to get in contact with us on 01332 360737.

Why not try something different?

At the Open Centre we offer a wide selection of workshops from a variety of different faiths and cultures. We firmly believe that one of the best ways to encourage understanding and diversity is through hands on experience.

All of our workshops are led by trained staff and have an emphasis on fun and interactivity whilst retaining the important message behind them. We are happy to tailor any of the workshops to your needs and can deliver activities either at the Open Centre or at your own preferred venue.

Marriage/Mehndi Patterns

Asian Cookery

Block Printing Bunting

Hebrew Badge Making

Arabic Badge Making

Haj

Story Telling

Hindu Clay Divas

and many more...



We also conduct faith trails and visits to the local places of worship . Visits to places of worship: Islamic Mosque, Sikh Gurdwara, Hindu Mandir, Baptist Church, Derby Cathedral, Jewish Synagogue (in Nottingham).

However we do not take part in any acts of worship during our visits.

Please see our website for full details of what we offer at

<http://www.derbyopencentre.org/>.

We would like to hear from you, if you have any comments or questions.

Please contact us on contact@derbyopencentre.org