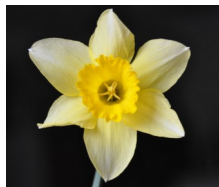


A Blossoming Spring...



Back in January the Open Centre held a training day for staff to look at ways of taking our Faith Trails to the next level by making them even **more interactive**. The success of this training has been reflected in our feedback scores which are now on **average 9.7 out of 10**. These are just a few of the words often used in on our feedback forms from schools; **'engaging', 'friendly', 'knowledgeable' and 'organised'**.

If you would like to find out how your school can take part in one of our Faith Trails, please don't hesitate to contact us so we can arrange a uniquely tailored experience for your students.



Why not check out our mobile friendly website?

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



Visits

From January to the end of March the Open Centre has had its busiest period so far with nearly **2700 visitors** to our Faith Trails which is **400 more** than this time last year.

We have also seen the number of workshops **triple** since this time last year, which is due to many schools now leading 'Culture' or 'Faith' days. Schools have indicated that they prefer this method of teaching in RE as children can be **immersed in a different religion or culture** for the day to help them better understand the **values** and **beliefs** along with learning **what it is like to be a member of that religion in Britain today**.



We have also recently seen an increase in the number of 'in school' faith talks, with a particular focus on Islam. This has helped the Open Centre to portray a **positive image of Islam** and help **target Islamophobia** in different communities in Derby and Derbyshire.

Some schools are finding that some parents have reservations about their child becoming involved in activities concerning other cultures. If this is the case for you then the Open Centre might be able to support you with our experienced staff and trustees. So please contact us on 01332 360737 for help and advice.

Re-Launch of the Mobile Exhibition!

The 'Our Heritage' teaching resources are a vibrant series of cross-curriculum resources for all Key Stages designed to engage students with notions of 'British Values' through case studies exploring faith, culture and the legacy of multiculturalism from the perspective of six families. As they have been out in schools for a year now, we have gathered feedback from schools and developed the packages further so that schools get even more resources for their money. Along with fantastic additional learning experiences for the children. **The new packages are set to launch at the end of May.** See our website to find out how you could have this fantastic teaching resource in your school **or email, Sam, our manager at manageropencentre@gmail.com** for more details.



Would you like to extend the children's learning back in the classroom after your visit?

At the Open Centre we understand the pressures of teaching and how difficult it can be to find time to make additional resources to extend the children's learning after a trip. As a result our team has invested a lot of time in creating tailored resources for children in Early Years, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and 4, Year 5 and 6 right up to Key Stage 3 and 4. They are all based on the new local agreed syllabuses and cover Sikhism, Islam, Hinduism, Christianity and Judaism. Each activity sheet includes images from the local places of worship the children will have visited, as part of their faith trail, a drawing task and a writing activity. To help teachers further, each pack comes with a teacher resource sheet which contains easy to read facts and information based on what our experienced staff members will have talked about during your faith trail. The activity sheets are currently being trialled at the **small cost of £2.50 per age band, per place of worship.** For this you will receive an electronic copy to use back in the classroom.



**Please note you can only purchase these as part of a faith trail not on their own.*

Dates for your Diary

Here are a few upcoming Religious Events, Festivals and Awareness days this term you might be interested in:

April

- 14th April - Sikhism - VAISAKHI/BAISAKHI (Birth of the Khalsa)
- 15th April - Hinduism - RAMA NAVAMI (Birthday of Lord Rama)
- 23rd April - All - Saint George's Day
- 23rd April - Judaism - Passover

June

- 7th June - Islam - Ramadan begins (Fasting)
- 21st June - Humanist - World Humanist Day

July

- 7th July - Islam - Eid Ul Fitr

