



# Inter Faith Week

## 12-19 November 2017

22 August 2017

Dear Colleague,

I am writing from the Inter Faith Network for the UK (IFN), the national umbrella body that works to promote inter faith understanding and cooperation between the faith communities of the UK.

One of IFN's major programmes is national Inter Faith Week, which takes place this year from Sunday 12 to Sunday 19 November. Many schools have participated in the Week in past years, and IFN is encouraging as many as possible to do so this year. Inter Faith Week is an excellent way for schools to bring pupils of different faiths and beliefs together to talk, to understand and to learn, so as to promote increased religious literacy.

The three aims of the Week are to:

- Strengthen good inter faith relations at all levels
- Increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, in particular celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society
- Increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs

Inter Faith Week is about respect, understanding, relationship building and genuine discussion, about 'living well together'. It was established as a way to highlight the positive contributions that faith communities make to society and to strengthen inter faith engagement, as well as dialogue with those of non-religious beliefs. It is a tremendous opportunity to reach out, learn, make new connections and develop friendships and working partnerships. These relationships can help make for greater neighbourliness and more cohesive communities. It is also a good platform for all who want to increase religious literacy and understanding of diversity.

If your school is thinking about whether to hold an activity and what that might be, *The Inter Faith Week Toolkit* has ideas for marking the Week, complete with helpful checklists for organisers. It can be downloaded at: [www.interfaithweek.org/toolkit](http://www.interfaithweek.org/toolkit). IFN has also published a short, illustrated report on Inter Faith Week 2016: *Stories from 2016, Inspiration for 2017*. The report can be downloaded here: [www.interfaithweek.org/resources/inter-faith-week-stories-from-2016-inspiration-for-](http://www.interfaithweek.org/resources/inter-faith-week-stories-from-2016-inspiration-for-)

[2017](#). It contains examples of activities organised by schools last year, and will hopefully inspire you to take part this year.

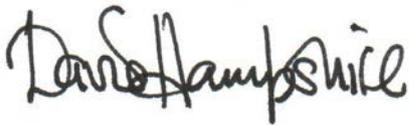
More information can be found on the dedicated Inter Faith Week website, [www.interfaithweek.org](http://www.interfaithweek.org), including specific examples of the ways in which schools have participated in past years (<https://www.interfaithweek.org/resources/school-activities>), as well as tips and pointers for developing activities. A flyer for the Week can also be downloaded here: [www.interfaithweek.org/flyer](http://www.interfaithweek.org/flyer).

IFN's Trustees hope that schools will join the many faith, belief and inter faith bodies, local authorities, community and voluntary organisations, businesses, emergency services, SACREs, colleges, universities, chaplaincies, sports organisations and others who will be taking part this year.

If your school is considering planning an activity, we hope that you or a member of your team will take time to register it online at [www.interfaithweek.org/submit](http://www.interfaithweek.org/submit) so that the lead you are taking will encourage others. Event details will be published from late summer onwards.

If you would like any further information, or to discuss a possible event, please do not hesitate to be in touch with me via email at [david.hampshire@interfaith.org.uk](mailto:david.hampshire@interfaith.org.uk). Alternatively, I can be contacted by phone on 020 7730 0410.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Hampshire". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

David Hampshire  
Assistant Director