



## East of England Faiths Agency (EEFA)

In Suffolk, we have Baha'is, Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Humanists, Jains, Jews, Muslims, Pagans, Sikhs, Taoists and Zoroastrians, but few formal places of worship belonging to faiths other than Christian. For schools, arranging visitors and visits for RE lessons, especially for those which are not Christian in nature, can be difficult.



**Suffolk SACRE recommends the use of the East of England Faiths agency. Schools can book speakers and visits on-line and find out about costs at <http://www.eefa.net/>**

EEFA (working in partnership with local inter-faith groups) has a register of experience speakers and tutors. Each speaker is a practising member of his/her faith and is comfortable speaking about their faith and describing what it is like to live it out in modern multi-cultural/ multi-faith Britain today.

They can arrange

- A visitor to speak about their faith or a group of speakers from different faiths who will work together
- Guided visits to places of worship in Ipswich, Norwich, Cambridge and Colchester or further afield.

They can provide a team of tutors to run workshop days, for example, on Rites of Passage, Work, Money, Death and Sex

- For secondary students, 'Breaking Barriers' challenges stereotypes and preconceptions and can include speakers on Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, refugees and asylum speakers and the travelling community.
- For primary pupils, special days on faith, culture and lifestyle are offered. Locally speakers have experimented with a 'Treasures of Faith' day for primary age children, especially for rural schools with limited access to travel.



EEFA also run to additional schemes for schools:

- 'Open the Box', an artefact loan scheme
- 'Open the Tent', a team of actors re-enacting faith stories.

Small charges apply for these services and details can be found on the website.



## SACRE recommends:

- Combining a trip to a place of worship with another curriculum visit because of distances involved
- Contacting known local churches directly through a website or by phone for a visitor or visit to a Christian place of worship where possible / appropriate.
- Preparing staff/ pupils before a visit / visitor, focussing on a key question / issue which is shared with the tutor in advance.

**NB All bookings should be made in good time to enable EEFA to help you and to avoid disappointment. It is not always easy for small communities to serve so many schools.**

You can contact Suffolk SACRE through the clerk: Linden Pitcher ([Linden.Pitcher@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Linden.Pitcher@suffolk.gov.uk))