

# HOW TO PROMOTE RELIGIOUS INCLUSIVITY IN SCHOOL



At The Diana Award, we know how important it is to have an inclusive environment in school so that each student feels safe and able to practice their religion or faith. There are some schools of religious character (or 'faith schools') that practice one particular religion within the school. However, most other schools will have a multitude of religions amongst their students. Here are some hints and tips for best practice in creating an inclusive school.

## Firstly, why do we need to educate pupils on different religions/faiths and beliefs?

The National Curriculum in England set by the Department for Education (2013) explains that state funded schools must teach religious education. It is also important for the school community, as religious education provides a great tool to encourage diversity, where different cultures, beliefs and values can be celebrated. Therefore, it should already be part of the syllabus and it is important for the personal development of students.

## TIPS FOR PROMOTING RELIGIOUS INCLUSIVITY IN SCHOOLS\_

### CLASSROOM-BASED ACTIVITIES\_

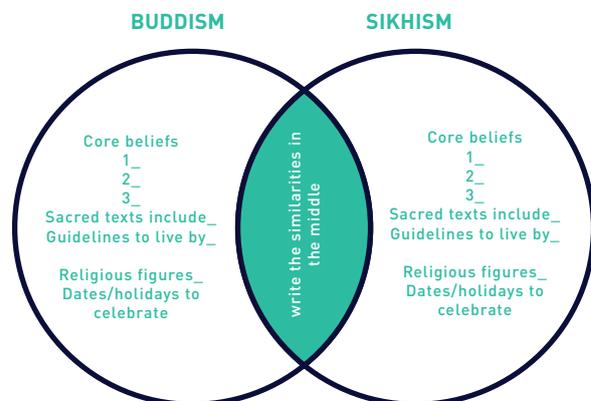
In religious studies or PSHE lessons, you can discuss different religions and faiths throughout the year. Why not try an activity that identifies the similarities between religions, whilst also learning about each religion individually?

**For example, 'Discovering different religions Activity'**

**Instructions:** Explain to students you will be doing an activity called 'Discovering different religions'. The activity is very simple; students are to write a summary of each religion, including:

- Core beliefs
- Sacred texts
- Guidelines to live by if practising that religion
- Dates or holidays to celebrate

Then, in the middle of the circle, write down the similarities of both religions.



### RELIGIOUS OBJECTS\_

Each religion has different sacred texts or symbols. Examples include: The Nine-pointed Star, Cross, Three Goddess Symbol, Crescent and Star and Khanda. You can have these objects in different classrooms and presented in Religious Education/Studies lessons.

#### Show and tell

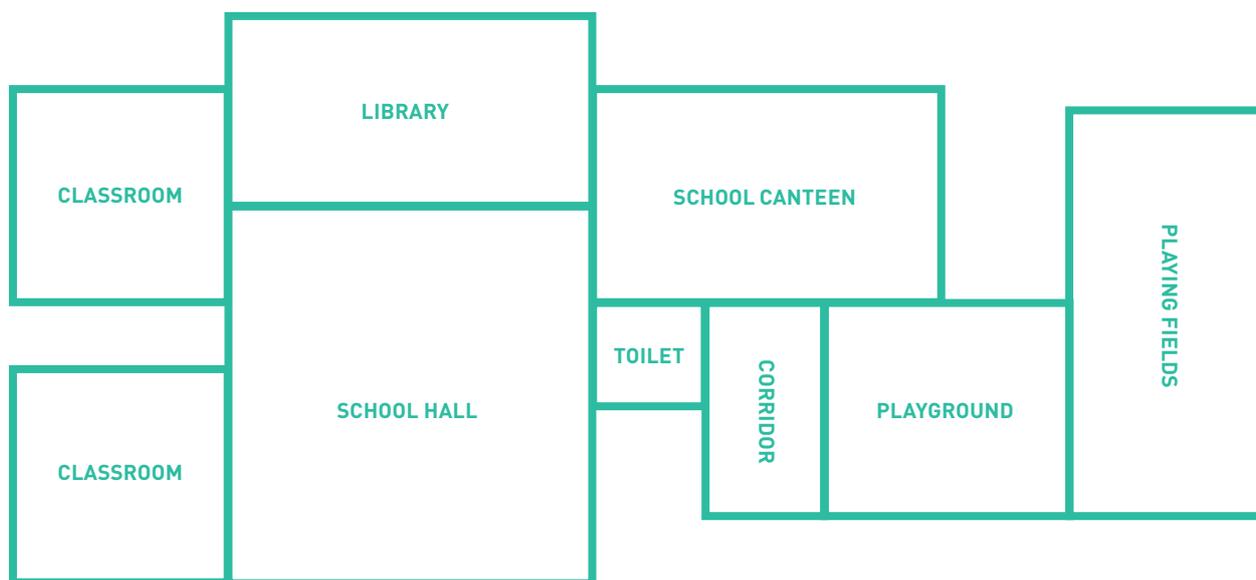
Why not host a show and tell for students to bring in different religious objects which have religious significance for them? This encourages students to develop their public speaking skills at the same time!

### PROVISIONS FOR DIFFERENT RELIGIONS\_

You should ensure that all students have provisions at school which allow them to practice their religion. This can include different food options, places to pray, religious books and objects if they need them. You could celebrate different religions by celebrating all the different religious holidays such as Diwali, Hanukkah and Easter.

#### My inclusive school activity

Why not use the design below to map out different provisions you could include to make your school more inclusive? Then consider budget and plan some provisions you could reasonably undertake. Use the blueprint below to map out where you could implement the changes within the school. For example, in the canteen you could ensure there are pork and meat-free options. Another example may be to adapt a classroom into a prayer room during break times.



We hope you find these top tips and activities helpful as you work towards being as inclusive as possible in your school. Please tag us on our social media (@antibullyingpro) with posts/photos of all the great things you have done since reading the resource!

### DO YOU HAVE ANTI-BULLYING AMBASSADORS IN YOUR SCHOOL\_

The Diana Award's Anti-Bullying Ambassador Programme empowers students and staff to build inclusive school environments by changing the attitudes, behaviours, and cultures of bullying behaviour. This is all delivered through The Diana Award's renowned peer-led approach. Find out more and sign up to our free training at <https://diana-award.org.uk/anti-bullying-training/>

#### References:

Department for children, schools and families (2010). Religious education in English schools: Non-statutory guidance 2010. Retrieved from the URL [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/190260/DCSF-00114-2010.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/190260/DCSF-00114-2010.pdf)

We're proud to be the only charity set up in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales and her belief that young people have the power to change the world. It's a big mission but there are two things within it that we focus our charity's efforts on – young people and change.

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Throughout all of our programmes and initiatives 'change' for and by young people is central, including our anti-bullying work which encourages change in attitudes and behaviours.

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We hope you found this resource useful and wish you all the best in your anti-bullying journey. If you would like to help us create more resources and train even more Anti-Bullying Ambassadors you can make a £5 donation by texting CHANGE 5 to 70470 or visit [diana-award.org.uk/donate](https://diana-award.org.uk/donate)

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