



Practical Considerations

These are a few tips to get you started working intentionally with people of different faiths and beliefs, but the list isn't comprehensive – running activities and talking with people is what interfaith learning is all about. The best way to help everyone feel comfortable is to ask people about their needs.

Getting Started

Be aware that people come from very different backgrounds and their customs, thoughts, ways of communicating, values, traditions, and institutions vary.

In interfaith settings some people choose not to participate in prayer, meditations, religious music, or other rituals with people from different traditions to their own, but there is a wealth of activities that can be shared and enjoyed.

Representation of people from different faiths, beliefs and backgrounds on websites, social media and promotional materials can make people feel like an event or service is for them.

Affirmative statements like 'we welcome people of all faiths, beliefs and cultures' can also be helpful.

At events, ensuring event leaders, organisers and speakers are from different backgrounds can help people feel welcomed and comfortable.

Partnerships

Invite local faith groups to partner on events and projects – involving communities from the outset enables you to take their needs into account as early as possible.

Ensure information about your services is available at faith-based and BAME community spaces, festivals and events. Attend these events to show a friendly face and meet people.

Timings and Logistics

Before planning an event check an interfaith calendar to make check times and dates of prayer and religious festivals. See RE:Online's festivals calendar:

<http://www.reonline.org.uk/supporting/festivals-calendar/>

Jewish and Muslim festivals start at sunset the evening before the day recorded in most calendars.

It's best to use a neutral venue (i.e. unrelated to any faith/belief), or rotate between venues. Some people will not feel comfortable meeting in rooms that are used for another faiths' worship.

Some people will require access to a prayer room at certain times. This should be a quiet, comfortable space. It is helpful to label the allocated room as a multi-faith all-gender space