

NASACRE newsletter article:

Celebrating Inter Faith Week in Schools: An Invitation to SACREs

“The role of RE and interfaith education in schools is central to building a cohesive society. I am proud to support our educators as they foster not only knowledge, but also the values of tolerance, respect and understanding. These are the values that will help children build confidence in their identity and will help them thrive in our diverse country.”

Lord Khan of Burnley, Minister for Faith

Inter Faith Week for Schools (IFW4Schools) will take place this year from **9–16 November 2025**, and we warmly invite all SACREs to play a leading role in supporting schools in your area to get involved.

Organised nationally by the **Faith & Belief Forum (F&BF)** in partnership with key Religious Education organisations – **NASACRE, AREIAC, REC, RE Today, NATRE, RE Hubs, the Culham St Gabriel’s Trust, Facing History & Ourselves UK, and The Feast** – IFW4Schools helps children and young people explore different faiths and beliefs, reflect on their own values, and discover what it means to live well together in a diverse society. Inter Faith Week in 2025 (which the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government intends to fund) is being organised by a steering group of national interfaith organisations, [take a look at our website](#) for more information.

This year’s theme, **“Community: Together We Serve”**, highlights how people of different beliefs contribute to the common good, and how service and social action build bridges of understanding.

Why SACREs are central

SACREs are uniquely placed to champion Inter Faith Week locally, connecting schools with diverse voices and helping ensure that celebrations are inclusive, meaningful, and impactful. By taking an active role, SACREs can:

- **Support schools in finding speakers:** drawing on your local contacts across different faiths and beliefs.
- **Visit schools yourselves:** offering insight into the work of SACREs and encouraging reflection on the importance of local interfaith cooperation.

- **Promote whole-school participation:** encouraging schools to ensure that every RE class engages with IFW resources during the week, and involvement is encouraged across subjects.
- **Inspire creativity and dialogue:** guiding schools to take up activities such as interfaith feasts, speaker panels, faith trails, bunting projects, and cross-curricular celebrations (see below for examples).

Ideas for schools

We are sharing a curated set of activity ideas, ranging from quick classroom projects to larger community events. Some highlights include:

- **Identity Bunting:** every pupil designs a piece representing their belief or culture, joined together and displayed around the school.
- **Interfaith Feast:** pupils and community members share food important to their culture or faith, explaining its story and meaning.
- **Speaker Panels:** invite diverse local speakers to explore the theme *Community: Together We Serve* in assemblies or classes.
- **Faith Trails:** organise a visit to local places of worship, preparing questions on service and community to ask along the way.
- **Whole-School Celebrations:** a cross-curricular festival where every subject contributes – from food technology to art, music, and beyond – culminating in a community celebration.

These activities not only make Inter Faith Week a vibrant part of school life, but also help schools meet their statutory responsibilities around **SMSC** and **community cohesion**.

What support is available

F&BF and our RE partners will provide a wide range of support for schools and SACREs, including:

- A **relaunch of the [IFW4Schools website](#) at the start of term**, with free, curriculum-linked resources by key stage.
- **Webinars and assemblies**, both live and recorded, that can be used in classrooms throughout the year.
- A **national poetry competition** for students, celebrating interfaith action and creative expression.
- **Advice and tailored support** for schools and SACREs planning local activities.

How you can get involved

As SACREs, your involvement is vital. You can:

- Encourage every school in your area to celebrate Inter Faith Week and make use of the new resources.
- Act as a bridge between schools and local communities of faith and belief.
- Share your plans and successes with us, so we can spotlight the impact across the country.

Inter Faith Week is a chance not only to celebrate diversity, but also to showcase the vital role SACREs play in bringing communities together.

Key Information

- **Dates:** 9–16 November 2025
- **Theme:** Community: Together We Serve
- **Organisers:** Faith & Belief Forum, with national partners and RE partners (including NASACRE)
- **Website (from 1 September):** www.interfaithweek.org
- **Contact:** info@faithbeliefforum.org

We would love to hear what your SACRE has planned. Please get in touch with our team at info@faithbeliefforum.org for support in developing activities or to share your events so we can amplify them nationally.

Together, we can make Inter Faith Week 2025 a truly memorable celebration for schools and communities across the country.