

## So what can you or your church do?

### Opportunities for the church:

- To have schools visit the church's premises
- To run the Christmas Journey (see 1)
- To run the Easter Experience (see 2)
- To get involved in running 'It's your move' to Yr 6 pupils (see 3)
- To pray regularly for a local school
- To give financially into our work

### Opportunities for the church leader/s or individual church members:

- To support FIS schools workers by assisting in lessons \*
- To take assemblies within schools
- To support the work of the Faith in Schools team through praying with us at our monthly prayer meetings, or through receiving our half-termly prayer letters
- To give financially into our work: it cost £2000 to provide our lessons to one school annually

### Training

We offer free training to churches and church members to enable local Christians to be able to share their faith with children and young people.

- (1) **Christmas Journey** is a one hour session run at a church, telling the Christmas story in an interactive and engaging way for 5 and 6 year olds
- (2) **Easter Experience** is a half-day's visit from a local school of children aged 8 and 9 to a church to find out through a range of workshops the meaning of the resurrection for Christians today.
- (3) **It's your move** is an hour-long lesson that helps children prepare for going on to secondary school.

\* Please note that when assisting with lessons you can give as much or as little time as you can afford, and those who get involved need not be qualified teachers as it is our FIS schools workers who will plan and lead the lessons.

If you would like to get in touch please contact Jennifer Essu,  
Faith in Schools Church Liaison Officer  
E-mail [jennifer@faithinschools.co.uk](mailto:jennifer@faithinschools.co.uk)  
Tel: 07984 939923  
[www.faithinschools.co.uk](http://www.faithinschools.co.uk)  
*Faith in Schools is a registered charity No. 1147664 and is an  
associate trust with Scripture Union*

# Faith in Schools

## Supporting the teaching of Christianity in Newham's primary and secondary schools

Faith in Schools brings Christians into Newham's schools to deliver high-quality RE lessons on Christianity in line with the Newham Agreed Syllabus and we arrange visits for pupils into the community. This enables pupils to meet a variety of Christians from different backgrounds and church denominations and find out what it means to be a Christian in Newham today.



Schools in Newham are asked by the Religious Education Agreed Syllabus to visit local places of worship. You might find that schools get in touch asking to visit your church. Inside this booklet you will find details of how your church can support schools.

Faith in Schools exists to support your church in strengthening existing links with schools, or to forge new links with schools in Newham. We want to support your church in understanding the opportunities before us, so that more children hear what it means to be a Christian in the 21<sup>st</sup> century in Britain.



Faith in Schools has been working in Newham's schools since 2003. Our schools workers are experienced teachers, and we believe our lessons give Christians an opportunity to share their faith with children and young people

| <b>EYFS &amp; Key Stage One: Year 1 (children aged 3-6)</b> |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Unit title</b>   | <b>What YOUR church could offer</b>  |
| <b>Visiting a Church</b>                                    | <b>Why are churches important to Christians?</b><br>We could help you to organise an age-appropriate visit to your church to share what happens in a church through a range of play-based activities and artefacts.  |
| <b>What does it mean to belong to Christianity?</b>         | <b>How do some children belong in Christianity?</b><br>You could be invited to demonstrate a Christening or Dedication service to the class or your church could invite a local school to your church to see how you welcome children into being part of your church family. |
| <b>How do Christians celebrate Christmas?</b>               | <b>What happened when Jesus was born?</b><br>We can help you as a church to put on the Christmas Journey. The Christmas Journey gets children walk through the Christmas story meeting the characters and visiting the locations in a creative and interactive way.          |

| <b>Key Stage One: Year 2 (children aged 6&amp;7)</b> |   |
|--|---|
| <b>How do we know that Easter is coming?</b>         | <b>What can we learn about Jesus' death? Or Why is Easter important to Christian people?</b><br>Children would find it really helpful to visit your church to see/hear the story of Jesus' death told through the 'Stations of the Cross' often displayed around the church building or to visit a church where the Easter story is told. |
| <b>Why did Jesus tell stories?</b>                   | <b>What other stories did Jesus tell?</b><br>Your church could invite a local school to come and hear a few stories that Jesus told and their impact in lives today.  |
| <b>Food and fasting?</b>                             | <b>Why do some Christians fast during Lent?</b><br>As a church you could offer an interactive session at your church, where children can taste Lent food and think about the concept of fasting and the reasons why some Christians fast.   |

| <b>Key Stage Two: Year 3 (children aged 7&amp;8)</b>   |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Unit title</b>                                      | <b>What YOUR church could offer</b>   |
| <b>What is the significance of light in religions?</b> | <b>How do Christians use light at Christmas?</b><br>As a church you could invite a local school to come and talk about light and its symbolism in Christianity, or you could organise a school visit to your church where the children make and learn about Christingles. |

| <b>Key Stage Two: Year 4 (children aged 8&amp;9)</b> |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Why is Easter important to Christians?</b>        | <b>What are the events of the Last Supper and how are the symbolisms used today?</b><br>Lovely opportunity here for a church visit to see how communion, the Last Supper, Mass or the breaking of bread is carried out in your church.<br><b>Why is Easter so important to Christians?</b><br>Your church could work with FIS to put on the 'Easter Experience' - a half-day session of workshops focusing on what the resurrection means to Christians from around the world. |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Why is the Bible a special book?</b>                                     | <b>How do Christians use the Bible in church and in the home and elsewhere?</b><br>Your church could invite a local school to come and visit your church, and find out about the way you make use of the Bible.  |
| <b>What religions and world views are represented in our neighbourhood?</b> | <b>What evidence can we find of religions in the neighbourhood helping others?</b><br>Your church could invite a local school to come and visit and find out how a number of people from your congregation put their faith into action in the local community.   |
| <b>What happens when someone gets married?</b>                              | <b>What is a wedding celebration? What are wedding vows and what do they mean?</b><br>Your church could offer to put on a pretend marriage at your church for the children to participate in, along with a reception afterwards. We have helped a number of churches put this on. Get in touch if we could help you with this. |

| <b>Key Stage Two: Year 5 (children aged 9&amp;10)</b>  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Unit title</b>                                      | <b>What YOUR church could offer</b>  |
| <b>How do Christians try to follow Jesus' example?</b> | <b>How did Jesus set an example for others to follow?</b><br>Your church could offer to bring into the classroom a selection of Christians who are trying to follow Jesus' example by helping people in the community. |
| <b>How is Christmas Celebrated around the world?</b>   | <b>How do Christmas traditions vary around the world?</b><br>You could invite a local school to come to your church and see how different cultures within your community celebrate Christmas.                          |

| <b>Key Stage Two: Year 6 (children aged 10&amp;11)</b>       |   |
|--|---|
| <b>What happened on the first Easter Sunday?</b>             | <b>What other stories explore Easter themes?</b><br>Your church could invite children to come and visit you, and find out about what themes there are in the Easter story, and unpack what difference celebrating Easter makes in the lives of some of your congregation. |
| <b>What similarities and differences do religions share?</b> | <b>Why is the Church important for Christians?</b><br>You could offer a visit to your church and give the children the opportunity to ask any questions they have about how Christianity is similar or different from other religions and philosophies.                   |
| <b>It's your move</b>  | Your church could fund a gift of books and this lesson, helping children to get ready for their move to secondary schools.  |

| <b>Key Stage Three &amp; Four: Year 7-10 (young people aged 11-16)</b> |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Faith in Action</b>   | <b>How do Christians put their faith into action in their local community?</b><br>You could invite a local school to come and see how your church tries to help the local community. We are here to help facilitate this. |

**PLEASE NOTE:** Each school decides when each unit is taught from the Newham Agreed Syllabus, so apart from units of work on Christmas and Easter, units will be taught at different times of the year in different schools.