

A message for the speakers.....

Thank you so much for all being here. Your words and information have really struck a chord with me and I was so amazed to see have answers to lots of controversial questions. You're all so lovely and open to answer any questions and I'm in awe of you standing for what you believe in. Thankyou for inspring me to do the same



## What is Speakers' Forum?

One of the roles of any SACRE is to be a resource to support the delivery of their locally agreed syllabus. **Speakers' Forum** is one way in which Surrey SACRE chooses to do this. As a group of speakers from different perspectives of faith and belief, they are passionate about engaging children and young people with the big questions they have. Over the short period of time since they were set up, the group have supported interfaith dialogue in several Surrey secondary schools – and been invited back! – and are now working on developing appropriate resources for the primary phase, in partnership with several primary schools.

## Who's in Speakers' Forum?

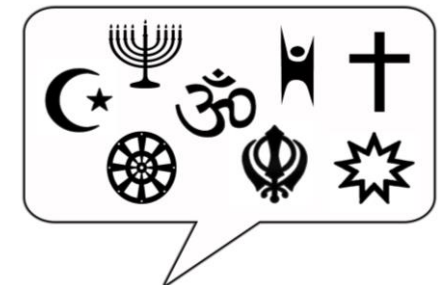
Currently, we have 7 committed members of our group:

- Roslyn Doney – Baptist Christian speaker
- Raju Pandyr – Hindu speaker
- Jennie Johnson – Humanist speaker
- Sarah Harris – Jewish speaker
- Allan Taylor – Methodist Christian speaker
- Kawther Hashmi – Muslim speaker
- Inderjeet Rehncy – Sikh speaker

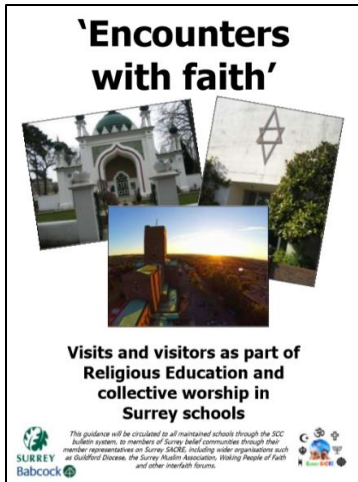
**Speakers' Forum** is a Surrey SACRE initiative, facilitated by SCC & the Diocese of Guildford

# Speakers' Forum

**A SACRE resource for  
interfaith discussion and debate  
in Surrey schools**



For further information about **Speakers' Forum**, please contact Rachel Boxer, adviser to Surrey SACRE: [rachel.boxer@cofeguildford.org.uk](mailto:rachel.boxer@cofeguildford.org.uk)



## Why Speakers' Forum?

Surrey SACRE was regularly receiving requests from schools asking for speakers from different faiths to come in to support children's learning in RE, and so we wanted to make sure that such volunteers were properly prepared for the experience!

SACRE contacted 3FF ('Three Faiths' Forum', as they were then known) to see how they could help and organised a training session for all members [right]. It was quite simply brilliant, and has probably had the most significant, wider impact for us as a SACRE as members prepared to 'share their stories'. These were very honest, quite emotional and demonstrated so powerfully how being better understood by each other transforms working relationships.



Suitably inspired, we got straight on with the task of thinking what would best help schools and formed a SACRE sub-

committee which we called '**Speakers' Forum**'. This group includes all the speakers who have volunteered to facilitate and meets specifically to plan and reflect on school experiences. We currently have 7 different speakers (including a Humanist) who support this venture.

Now that we had manpower, we needed to make sure both schools and speakers understood the educational purpose for such visits and found the very useful document produced by NATRE '*Religious Believers Visiting Schools*'. The code of conduct included within this guidance we used verbatim (with permission), and used the rest of the document to help us make decisions

We considered the importance of speakers presenting their own 'story' as an individual, rather than attempting to speak on behalf of their whole community, and developed an understanding of how what we say might be perceived by others. These are key skills which will help SACRE both in its engagement with schools and as we develop our interfaith dialogue as a statutory body.

about what local advice, within our budget constraints, might look like. The finished guidance, '**Encounters with faith & belief**', includes advice for belief communities and for schools – in relation to both visits and visitors. We also produced a guidance leaflet of reminders of good practice for speakers which is a part of the pack for each session we run.

**Speakers' Forum** has (according to both school and student feedback!) successfully facilitated sessions in several secondary schools, and this year will have visited one school five years in a row, with each session being an improved version of the previous year's, which has also helped us to think about different models of session that we can offer. Events usually have a mix of panel Q&A, carousel presentations and debate, but are developing with each venue. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we also revised our materials to include videos, featuring questions that support pupils' learning in KS3&4.

**We have recently expanded our sessions to include visits to Primary schools, which are age-appropriate in terms of approach, language and style, and support the teaching of our agreed syllabus. Please do get in touch!**

Rachel Boxer, RE Adviser to Surrey SACRE

A message for the speakers.....



What went well?.... Very interesting to know the different aspects of what even religion thinks about a certain subject

....even better if?....

MORE TIME