

EMIE Digest

Digest 53

May 2005

Religious Belief and Practices

This digest is concerned with the variety of religious belief and cultural customs practised within local authority areas, and how schools can make provision for pupils to observe their religion and customs while taking part in everyday aspects of school life.

It includes examples of local authority guidelines to schools and governors concerning various issues arising from pupils' religious observances and cultural customs and advice to schools on specific faiths and events; several of the documents include brief guides to some of the major religions. A further section provides links to useful websites and details of publications which have been recommended by colleagues in local authorities.

We would like to thank all those colleagues who kindly contributed documentation and information for this publication.

This digest was compiled following a recent discussion about pupils' religious observances on **eddie**, the email discussion forum managed by EMIE for local authority staff, which prompted several requests for guidance. For further information about **eddie**, please visit the EMIE website or email eddie@nfer.ac.uk

Copies of local authority documents shown as *available from EMIE* can be obtained from the EMIE office electronically, or in hard copy, by quoting the Document Number which appears at the end of each abstract. There is an order form at the end of the digest.

All EMIE's digests may be downloaded by registered users from the EMIE website at www.nfer.ac.uk/emie. Most of the documents they describe may likewise be viewed and downloaded in full, or ordered online from EMIE.

This publication has been produced for all those working and serving in local authority education and children's services departments.



sharing information through partnership

Religious Belief and Practices

Safe inclusion in offsite activities

Bath & North East Somerset

January 2005

A paper describing the authority's guidelines for schools regarding inclusion in outdoor, offsite activities. This includes a section of advice on cultural and religious beliefs concerning, for example, fasting or medical treatment which might present difficulties during offsite visits.

2 pages

Available from EMIE.

EMIE Document Number: **BATH22221**

Guidelines for meeting the religious and cultural needs of Sikh pupils

Birmingham

January 1999

The authority's guidance for schools concerning provision to meet the religious and cultural needs of Sikh pupils. Beginning with communication with Sikh parents and the role of governors, the guidance also covers registration of pupils' names, collective worship, religious education, religious festivals, sex education, community languages, dietary needs, dress and uniform, showering and changing, swimming, music, and dance and drama. Sources of further information are provided and appendices describe the five Kakars of Sikhism, the wearing of the Kirpan, and case law (*Mandla v Lee*) concerning school uniform policies.

10 pages

Available from EMIE.

EMIE Document Number: **BIRM21800**

Ramadhan advice and guidance

Blackburn with Darwen

September 2004

The authority's guidance for schools regarding Ramadhan. Begins with a statement of principles, followed by sections on fasting, supervision at lunchtimes, prayer times and facilities. Also includes sections on the Islamic calendar and school events, PE, swimming and after-school activities, time off for Eid and communications

with parents. Concludes with dates for Ramadhan for three years and sources of further advice and support.

9 pages

Available from EMIE.

EMIE Document Number: **BLAN22185**

School uniform and appropriate dress in multi-faith/multicultural schools

Blackburn with Darwen

February 2005

The authority's guidelines for schools concerning school uniform and appropriate dress for swimming and PE in multi-faith and multicultural schools. These aim to strike a balance between the rights of ethnic minority pupils and the schools' responsibility to ensure pupil health and safety. The guidelines have been updated to take account of recent legislation and the recommendations of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry. They begin with guiding principles and a summary of the national context (which is compared with the local context), and include advice regarding the wearing of religious symbols, jewellery, symbolic clothing and artefacts. Other issues considered are changing rooms, showering facilities and single sex lessons. They also give guidance on possible action under the Race Relations Act or Human Rights Act.

11 pages

Available from EMIE.

EMIE Document Number: **BLAN22183**

Ramadhan guidance

Bradford

November 2002

The authority's guidance regarding the Islamic month of Ramadhan during 2002. Begins with a description of the customs and requirements during Ramadhan, followed by guidance on issues concerning Muslim pupils and Muslim staff. Concludes with sources of further information.

3 pages

Available from EMIE.

EMIE Document Number: **BRAD22405**

Guidance on respect for children with religious and non-religious identities

Brighton & Hove

January 2004

Guidance from the authority's SACRE concerning respect for children with religious and non-religious identities. This was drawn up following consultations with religious and non-religious communities in the city. Issues concerning customs and practices that might be of concern at school are listed under the name of each religious or community group.

8 pages

Available from EMIE.

EMIE Document Number: **BRIG22316**

Working towards inclusive and diverse classrooms

Cheshire

January 2004

The authority's guidance for teachers regarding world faith issues. This is in the form of frequently asked questions and is designed to ensure sensitivity and awareness of religious issues. The faiths considered are: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism and Judaism. Questions are answered regarding food requirements, religious festivals, views of death, and dress codes.

8 pages

Available from EMIE.

EMIE Document Number: **CHES22186**

Managing cultural diversity

Derby City

February 2000

A good practice guide for schools on the management of cultural diversity. It is arranged in five sections: school and community; pupils, including names and extended leave; faith and cultures, including food, dress and language; the curriculum, including special needs; and corporate policy, including harassment and equal opportunities. The guide includes checklists, monitoring arrangements, model policy statements and a bibliography.

80 pages plus 6 dividers in a ring binder

Available, price £25.00, from Heather Handley, Derby City Council, Middleton House, 27 St. Mary's Gate, Derby, DE1 3NN. Tel: 01332 716 881. Email: heather.handley@derby.gov.uk.

Managing cultural diversity: information sheet

Derby City

January 2004

Information about the authority's good practice guide (described above) including an introduction and contents list.

3 pages

Available from EMIE.

EMIE Document Number: **DERY22182**

Meeting the needs of Muslim pupils in school

Devon

October 2004

The authority's guidance for schools concerning the needs of Muslim pupils. Begins with guidance on the Race Relations Act and on racism. This is followed by sections on the implications arising from cultural differences and on curriculum issues. Guidance is given on issues that may arise when the first Muslim child attends a school. A separate letter describes the origins of the guidance document.

10 pages

Available from EMIE.

EMIE Document Number: **DEVO22187**

Basic essentials for schools about Islam and Muslim children

Dorset

October 2004

The authority's guidance for schools concerning Islam and Muslim children. This covers parent-teacher consultations, clothing, the mixing of the sexes, school trips, fasting, Islamic holidays and festivals, school assemblies and drama. Also provides advice regarding Islamic beliefs and practices such as those concerning prayers, cleanliness and food.

2 (A3) pages

Available from EMIE.

EMIE Document Number: **DORS22232**

A brief introduction to Islam

Ealing

January 2002

The authority's guidance for schools concerning Islam. This covers the significance of law in Islam and the differences between Islamic groups, and issues of potential concern for schools such as food, dress, relations between sexes, music, dance and drama. Also includes the fast of Ramadan and basic considerations of the Human Rights Act.

6 pages

Available from EMIE.

EMIE Document Number: **EALI22188**

Religious observance and school attendance

Ealing

February 2002

The authority's guidance for parents and schools concerning religious observance and school attendance. The introduction explains the position of schools regarding religious festivals and observances. The next section is concerned with the legal position and this is followed by a description of the needs of different religious groups and the difficulties that are faced by schools. Concludes with a summary of advice.

3 pages

Available from EMIE.

EMIE Document Number: **EALI21760**

Funeral rites across different cultures

Ealing

January 2004

The authority's guidance for schools concerning religious beliefs and practices in relation to death and funerals. The first section is concerned with the symbols of death. This is followed by guidance on the funeral customs and death related rituals for Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims, Jews, Buddhists, Christians and humanists.

14 pages

Available from EMIE.

EMIE Document Number: **EALI22189**

Guidance to schools during the month of Ramadan

Hounslow

September 2004

The authority's guidance for schools concerning arrangements for Muslim pupils during Ramadan. Originally prepared by the local authority and Hounslow Central Mosque, this edition is updated by the Muslim Council of Britain. Contains guidance on fasting, prayer and on arrangements for examinations, parent evenings, school functions, attendance, religious observance, injections and swimming during Ramadan.

5 pages

Available from EMIE.

EMIE Document Number: **HOUN22400**

Special catering needs

Newport, Casnewydd

January 2002

The authority's guidelines on religious, ethnic and medical dietary needs. Concentrates mainly on Halal food, including advice on receiving, storing, cooking and transportation of Halal meat. Also includes paragraphs concerned with the preparation of vegetarian dishes and with medical diets.

10 pages

Available from EMIE.

EMIE Document Number: **NEWP21844**

Ramadan and Eid: guidance for schools

Peterborough

June 2002

An appendix from the authority's guidance on good practice regarding minority ethnic pupils which advises schools on meeting the needs of Muslim pupils during Ramadan and Eid festivals. Gives guidance on fasting, school meals, prayer facilities, assemblies, after school and out of school activities, celebrating Eid in school, clashes with tests and examinations, absence for religious observance and communications with parents. Also gives guidance on forecasting the dates of Ramadan and the two Eids.

7 pages

Available from EMIE.

EMIE Document Number: **PETE22166**

Ramadhan

Portsmouth

September 2004

The authority's guidance for schools concerning Ramadhan during 2004. Gives dates for the festival and guidance on fasting, prayers and Eid and suggests opportunities to incorporate Ramadhan into school assemblies and the curriculum.

1 page

Available from EMIE.

EMIE Document Number: **PORT22351**

Reading events calendar

Reading

January 2005

The authority's events calendar for 2005 provided to schools to highlight religious festivals and ethnic cultural events taking place in Reading during the year. For each event or festival there is mention of a resource for further information.

1 page

Available from EMIE.

EMIE Document Number: **READ22284**

Suggested arrangements for fasting (Saum) during the month of Ramadan

Stirling

January 2004

The authority's guidance for schools concerning arrangements for fasting during Ramadan. Includes sections regarding the practice of fasting, prayer rooms and prayer in Islam, examinations, parents' evenings, other school functions and whole school involvement.

2 pages

Available from EMIE.

EMIE Document Number: **STIR22180**

Valuing diversity: awareness raising for schools

Swansea, Abertawe

January 2004

The authority's guidance for schools concerning the different beliefs and customs that exist within

the community. It is intended to enable schools to meet the needs of all pupils and to contribute to celebrating diversity within and beyond the community of the school. Covers issues relating to faith and culture including collective worship, school meals, fasting, school uniform, religious symbols, religious observances and festivals. Also includes curricular issues such as RE, sex education and performing arts. Additional information is provided on Halal, Kosher, Ramadan and Eid-UI-Fitr.

16 pages

Available from EMIE.

EMIE Document Number: **SWAN21804**

The report of the Religious Observance Review Group

Scottish Executive

May 2004

The report of the Scottish Executive Religious Observance Review Group. The remit of the Review Group was to review current guidance on arrangements for religious observance in schools taking account of the views of interested bodies and individuals including religious organisations, teachers, parents and pupils; and to make recommendations to Ministers on any changes which are required to ensure that revised guidance to schools is relevant and appropriate for pupils, that it fulfils the requirements of the Education (Scotland) 1980 Act and also provides practical advice on religious observance.

39 pages

Available from EMIE.

May also be downloaded from the Scottish Executive website at

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/education/rorg-00.asp>

EMIE Document Number: **XS22164**

Religious observance in Scottish schools: report on the consultation

SCRE, Scottish Council for Research in Education

April 2004

Report on the consultation exercise carried out by SCRE into religious observance in Scottish schools on behalf of the Religious Observance Review Group. The report begins with a description of the scope and method, the

questionnaire, data processing and analysis. This is followed by an overview of the responses which are then described in three categories representing their views on spiritual development. The conclusion places religious observance in relation to religious and moral development, and personal and social development.

53 pages

Available from EMIE.

May also be downloaded from the Scottish Executive website at

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/education/orc-00.asp>

EMIE Document Number: **XS22165**

Living in harmony

South Wales Police, Heddlu De Cymru

January 2005

Guidance issued by South Wales Police concerning minority ethnic groups, and cultural and religious beliefs that are likely to be encountered in South Wales. The document has a section which provides information on religious and philosophical groups including their customs, beliefs and dress. Appendices give guidance on ethnic monitoring, food laws and death rites. Includes details of language support services.

61 (A5) pages

Available, price £1.50, from Minorities Support Unit, South Wales Police, K Community Safety Department, 1st Floor, Police Station, Station Road, Port Talbot, SA13 1JB. Tel: 01639 889183. email: msu.port.talbot@boltblue.com.

Useful Websites

Circular 1/2005

Area of the Scottish Executive website providing access to Circular 1/2005 which describes and explains the Scottish Executive's policy on the provision of religious observance in Scottish schools and sets out action for local authorities in planning the provision of religious observance.

http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/education/circ1_05-00.asp

Religious education, collective worship and the right to withdraw.

Area on the Teachernet website which provides guidance to schools and links to further information and legislation.

<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/atoz/r/recollectiveworshipandtherighttowithdraw/>

Collective worship

Area on the Teachernet website which provides guidance to schools and links to further information and legislation.

<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/atoz/c/collectiveworship/>

Advice to schools, dossiers & fact sheets

The library area of the website of the Muslim Council of Britain, which has guidelines, dossiers and fact sheets, and includes advice to schools.

<http://www.mcb.org.uk/gdf.html>

School uniform appeal

Page on the website of the British and Irish Legal Information Institute which provides information about the court of appeal ruling on the right of a pupil to wear a jibab.

<http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWCA/Civ/2005/199.html>

BBC schools religion website

Provides information about six religions: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism, with dates this year for their religious festivals.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/religion/>

Jewish Festivals

The education area of the Board of Deputies of British Jews website; includes a support contact for Jewish students taking exams during Jewish festivals and information about when the festivals are.

<http://www.bod.org.uk/bod/index.jsp?page=extra&address=davidfiles/educationmenu.jsp>

The RE directory

Information site for religious education; provides contact details for organisations representing the major faiths in Britain including Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Humanist, Islamic, Jewish and Sikh.

<http://www.theredirectory.org.uk/>

British Humanist Association

Education area of the website of the British Humanist Association.

<http://www.humanism.org.uk/site/cms/contentChapterView.asp?chapter=311>

Other Useful Publications

PARKER-JENKINS, MARIE (1995). *Children of Islam: A Teacher's Guide to Meeting the Needs of Muslim Pupils*. Stoke-on-Trent: Trentham Books. ISBN: 1858560349

IQRA TRUST (1991). *Meeting the Needs of Muslim Pupils: Advice for Teachers & LEAs*. London: IQRA Trust. ISBN: 1856790002.

CARROLL, BOB, HOLLINSHEAD, GRAEME, and CARROLL, B., (1993). 'Ethnicity and Conflict in Physical Education'. *British Educational Research Journal*, **19**, 1, 59-76.

Paper presenting research into conflicts of interest for Muslim children taking part in PE, for example, regarding PE kit, showers, Ramadan and extra-curricular activities as seen from the pupils' perspective. Findings indicate the need for better preparation of teachers, INSET, anti-racist policies and links with the community.

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Copies of documents other than priced publications can be ordered by email, fax, or phone, using this form. All documents listed in this order form can be supplied as email attachments or downloaded by registered users from our website at <http://www.nfer.ac.uk/emie>. Hard copies of larger documents can be supplied on loan to local authority staff.

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The Mere, Upton Park, Slough, SL1 2DQ
 T: 01753 523156 emie@nfer.ac.uk
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