

# London Borough of Redbridge



## Ambassadors of Faith & Belief 2021/22

*Promoting interfaith and intrafaith encounter and dialogue*

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**SACRE**

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

National  
winner 2014



Good Practice  
report 2013

## Redbridge Ambassadors of Faith and Belief

### Who are we?

We are Sixth Form students at secondary schools in Redbridge, who have been trained to deliver presentations and Q&A sessions about our faith and beliefs to children in local primary schools. Our group represents a range of religions, faith perspectives and cultures. We visit primary schools and work in classes and even help support other RE events, locally and nationally

### The 2021/22 AFaB Team



National  
winner 2014



Good Practice  
report 2013

# 1. Summary of the AFaB Scheme

## Quick Overview

- Year 12 students (AFaBs) visit primary classrooms with a presentation on aspects of their faith and beliefs
- Our AFaBs represent a range of religious and non-religious views
- AFaBs are booked by primary schools, using a central booking system
- Suitable for KS1 and KS2 classes
- Promotes Spiritual/Moral/Social/Cultural aspects of learning and community cohesion
- Supports the delivery of the Redbridge RE Agreed Syllabus
- Provides pupils with an opportunity to reflect, question and respond to differences within and between religions
- Brings theoretical RE 'to life', making learning more meaningful and purposeful
- Challenges stereotypes of religion and secular world views
- Provides younger pupils with positive, teenage role-models and provides an opportunity for them to ask a question about religion that they might not otherwise feel able to ask
- Provides opportunity for authentic, child-centred, interfaith dialogue

## Article 14. Freedom of thought and religion

Children can choose their own thoughts, opinions and religion, but this should not stop other people from enjoying their rights. Parents can guide children so that as they grow up, they learn to properly use this right.

Convention on the Rights of the

Child





## Background

The AFaB Scheme is a very successful community cohesion initiative, started by SACRE colleagues in 2012.

The project was judged by HMI Alan Brine as '**outstanding practice in RE**' in September 2013. In January 2014 the AFaB Scheme won the prestigious Accord Award for Inclusion.

*The Ofsted report said it was an, "Outstanding and innovative scheme....whereby sixth-form students from schools in the borough have been trained to support religious education and promote social cohesion by sharing their faith experience with children in local primary schools. Those involved have recognised the huge impact on primary pupils and teachers, the Ambassadors themselves, and on the wider RE community in Redbridge. Primary RE sessions are enriched through the inter-generational encounter and dialogue between the students and pupils. Direct access to teenage 'experts' provides a unique and personal experience, promoting a sense of awe and wonder in the primary classroom. Crucially, teachers report that these sessions promote progress and enhance the quality of learning in RE. The impact on this scheme for the ambassadors has proved significant in a wide range of ways, not only in terms of consolidation of key skills necessary for university and work, but also in increasing confidence and providing valuable opportunities for personal and spiritual exploration."*

The Chair of the Accord Coalition, Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romain, said, "The pioneering approach to RE....should inspire others around the country. RE can suffer from a too greater focus on facts and understanding faiths through the eyes of religious authorities. The school's 'Ambassadors of Faith and Belief' project not only provides a very worthwhile volunteering opportunity for local sixth form pupils, but it allows younger pupils to encounter and have a dialogue with positive role models from different backgrounds, improving their understanding of the nature of faith and belief as a real-life experience".

Our 2021/22 AFaB Team have been hand-selected by their secondary schools and have undertaken a rigorous training programme to enable them to create and deliver presentations about their beliefs and world views. Presentations and Q&A sessions last around 45 minutes.

Students will be available from early October to do 'RE lessons' in primary schools across the borough. A secure booking system is in place. Year 12 students are only allowed to do this 'work' in free periods and must build in time to travel from their school to the primary school. Most AFaBs are available afternoons only.

Most AFaBs will also bring a religious artifact to show the children as part of their presentation. Remember, these students are **experts of their** faith and beliefs...They will talk to your class about their life, their view of the world and what they believe as a follower of a religion. Some will talk about their beliefs and values from a secular viewpoint. They are **not 'an expert'** of a particular religious tradition and are not a spokesperson for all people that share the same faith as them. This project is about providing an authentic voice in the classroom to enrich the quality of religious education. Religion is lived. It is uniquely practiced by individuals and families. Our AFaBs will bring 'RE' to life and talk to your class about what their religion and beliefs mean to them.



**The AFaB Presentations cover a range of topics in the Agreed Syllabus including:**

**KS1**

What festivals do different religions celebrate?

Who is a Muslim and what do they believe?

How do religions celebrate the birth of a baby?

In what ways are a church/ mosque etc. important to believers?

Who is a Christian and what do they believe?

How do the stories of Jesus inspire Christians today?

Who influences our lives?

What do Christians do at Easter and why is it important to them?

**KS2**

Why is Jesus important to Christians?

What does it mean to be a Hindu/Christian/Jew/Muslim/Sikh/Humanist

Festivals, 'periods' (e.g. Ramadan, Lent) and holy days

Where, how and why do people worship?

Belief in God

How does your religion inspire you?

Why is prayer important for religious believers?

Justice and poverty: Can religions help to build a fair world?

Why are sources of wisdom important to people?

What do religions say to us when life gets hard?

## 2. How to book an AFaB

- Have a look at the list of AFaBs who are volunteering this year and decide which AFaB(s) would best support the lesson you are planning.
- Depending on their availability an AFaB may be able to visit 2 classes while they are in your school.
- The average length of an AFaB Presentation and Q&A session is 40 minutes.
- Contact Frankie Chissim by email ([RedbridgeAfabs@outlook.com](mailto:RedbridgeAfabs@outlook.com)) to book an AFaB and discuss your requirements
- Once Frankie has put you in touch with a suitable AFaB(s), ensure to provide details to the AFaB about the school, how to get there, the time of the session etc.
- Please prep your class to come up with some interesting questions for the AFaB which they can ask at the end of the presentation. All presentations have a Q&A session.



### 3. AFaB Scheme Protocols

#### During the visit

- Stay in the classroom while your AFaB is presenting. Please manage any behaviour issues as per usual. The AFaBs are supporting your lesson, not replacing it.
- The AFaB will have their PPT presentation either on USB or accessed via email. Please tell them in advance whether they can use a USB in your school. Please assist your AFaB with accessing their powerpoint at the start of the lesson and explain how your smart board/screen works (is there a clicker? is it touch screen? etc)
- AFaBs have been asked not to share their presentations with anyone else. These are personal and unique accounts of the students' religious views, values etc and family life. They contain many personal photos of the AFaB, their family and friends.
- For safeguarding reasons, always cc Frankie Chissim into all correspondence with your AFaB
- Please let Frankie know if the AFaB makes an inappropriate comment/or if you are concerned about any aspect of the presentation. Our AFaBs have been well trained but we cannot be sure how AFaBs will respond to all questions. If they have provided inaccurate information, it is important that this is fed back to Frankie so that feedback/training can be provided to the AFaB.
- Do not book an AFaB outside of the booking protocols. Parents have only given permission for their child to be involved using a Borough approved booking system. AFaBs are not allowed to work in non-Redbridge schools.
- While the AFaB is at your school, please ensure they are treated like any other visitor in terms of fire safety, signing in etc
- As many of our AFaBs are aspiring to get into top universities, please consider dropping them an email or asking your class to write a letter of thanks for them to keep in their personal portfolio.



## 4. Our Ambassadors

Our Ambassadors come from Woodford County High School, Ilford County High School, Beal High School and Kantor King Solomons High School

### Jewish AFaBs

- Becca – Jewish
- Laila – Agnostic Jew
- Hannah-Rosa – Reform Jew/Agnostic

### Muslim AFaBs

- Bilal – Muslim - sunni
- Abdullah – Muslim - sunni
- Hayder-Ali – Muslim - sunni
- Yunus – Muslim – sunni
- Humayra – Muslim - sunni
- Jannath – Muslim - sunni
- Zahra – Muslim (sunni/Hanif)

### Secular World Views

- Kirushan – Agnostic/Humanist
- Abhinav – Atheist (Hindu background. His presentation includes basic concepts with Hindism)

### Hindu AFaBs

- Siddid - Hindu

### Christian AFaBs

- Darius – Russian Orthodox Christian
- Michael – Christian (converted from Hinduism)
- Anna – Christian: Jacobite Orthodox
- Rosanna – Christian Catholic

### Sikh AFaBs

- Anjali - Sikh
- Aman - Sikh
- Kayah - Sikh
- Balmeet - Sikh

Contact Frankie Chissim on [redbridgeafabs@outlook.com](mailto:redbridgeafabs@outlook.com) to book

