

DIFFERENT FAITHS AND BELIEFS

Girlguiding North West England is an inclusive organisation welcome to members of all faiths and beliefs. We strive to ensure everyone feels included, welcomed and supported. To do this we think it's important to consider the impact of where we meet, what activities we engage in, what songs we sing, and what traditions we celebrate.

Why is the inclusion of people of different faiths and beliefs important?

Girlguiding North West England is open to girls of all faiths, and no faiths. It's important that we welcome all members no matter their faith, as we strive to show all girls they can do anything.

How can we be more inclusive?

-Think about how where your unit meets and what activities you attend could impact who may attend your unit. Holding your meetings at a place of worship or attending events in religious spaces may make it seem as though your unit only welcomes girls of a particular faith. Where possible, think about how you could change where you meet. Non-religious buildings such as a public library, school, or community centre are a great way to demonstrate that members of all or no faith are welcome.

-When discussing faiths or celebrating religious events, make sure to include all beliefs. Celebrating different faiths, beliefs, and cultures is a great way for our members to learn more and experience new things. For example, a song at the end of a unit meeting that refers to just one religion wouldn't be inclusive, but celebrating Eid, Easter, Hanukkah, and Diwali would be, and would demonstrate that your unit is welcoming to people of a variety of faiths and beliefs.

-Think about what day and time your unit meets, or what days you plan extra activities such as camps, and consider how this may impact some of your members. Some individuals may not be able to attend activities on a Saturday due to religious reasons, or may have to miss some sessions due to religious holidays.

-Don't be afraid to ask polite and respectful questions. If one of your members is part of a faith or belief you are not familiar with, it's okay to ask questions to ensure you respect their beliefs and don't accidentally do something which may go against their faith. These could be:

- Are there any dietary requirements we need to be aware of?
- Are there any days or specific dates we should avoid holding activities or events on?
- Are there any specific activities they would not be allowed to participate in?
- Are there any fasting days which they participate in?

For more information about members of different faiths and beliefs, please visit the Girlguiding website for more information [here](#).



Resources:

Resources from the Girlguiding Program:

Skills Builders:

- Skills Builder Stage 2 Know Myself- Friend Detective!
- Skills Builder Stage 3 Know Myself- Tailor Made
- Skills Builder Stage 4 Know Myself- My Beliefs Rock!
- Skills Builder Stage 4 Know Myself- Star of the Show

Unit Meeting Activities:

Rainbows

- UMA Know Myself- Fuzzy Feelings

Brownies

- UMA Know Myself- Brownie Town
- UMA Take Action- Fairest of Them All

Guides

- UMA Know Myself- Support Chain

Rangers

- UMA Take Action- Equality vs. Equity

Additional Resources:

Books:

- My World, Your World, Melanie Walsh (2-5 years)
- Welcome to Our World: A Celebration of Children Everywhere! Moira Butterfield and Harriet Lynas (3-6 years)
- All About Diversity, Felicity Brooks, Illustrated by Mar Ferrero (4-6 years)
- The Same But Different, Molly Potter Illustrated by Sarah Jennings (5-7 years)
- The Happiest Hanukkah, Ivor Baddiel, Illustrated by Kathryn Selbert (4-8 years)
- Religion around the World: A Curious Kid's Guide to the World's Great Faiths, Sonja Hagander, Matthew Maruggi, and Megan Borgert-Spaniol, Illustrated by Chester Bentley (8-12 years)
- World Religions, Brian Doyle (10-12 years)

