

Buddhism in schools and the wider community

We wish you well with this new academic year!

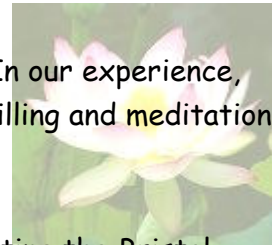
This leaflet details **five ways** in which our schools team at the Bristol Buddhist Centre may be able to enrich your RE provision in the year ahead. Centre volunteers have been visiting schools and hosting visits to the Bristol Buddhist Centre for more than a decade. If you are interested in any of these ideas (or you have one of your own!) please call Kamalamani on 07828 170260.

1. Invite us to your RE lesson! We are experienced in talking to students of all ages, from 4 - 18. We are happy to do a general introduction to Buddhism and what it's like to be a Buddhist practising in a western culture, through to providing specific curriculum input e.g. around a particular Dharma teaching, or the life of the historical Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama. We may also be able to give you new ideas for collective workshop.



2. Hot topics. What does Buddhism have to contribute to the most pressing debates of the moment? For example, environmental issues and how we can earn a living without harming ourselves and others? Buddhism is a living, engaging faith and team members have experience of environmental work, ethical local business, the arts, amongst other areas. All of us work 'in the world' whilst being committed Buddhist practitioners.

3. Calm down. Meditation is a central part of practising Buddhism. In our experience, students respond positively to short meditations. We can offer simple stilling and meditation exercises that you can continue to use in the class room.



4. Visit us at our place of worship. Visiting the Bristol Buddhist Centre gives students a first hand experience of visiting a place of worship, in their home city. They will have the chance to find out more about the lives of local Buddhists living in a modern, urban, spiritual community, practising age old teachings. They will also have the chance to see artefacts, visit a shrine room and understand more about the teaching and practices of Buddhism and its rich symbolism. There's even a small shop with books, cards and Buddhas!

5. Celebrate! The autumn term is a time of traditional festivities, with Halloween, Bonfire night, Diwali, Eid ul Adha and Christmas, amongst others. Buddhist celebrate their 'Sangha festival' in November. Why not invite us to explain what 'Sangha' means, why it is called one of the 'three jewels' of Buddhism and find out what Buddhists do at this, and other festival days through the year?

