

•• Aim of Vitarka ••

In offering school and educational outreach work we wish to actively promote positive values and to foster strengthened links between different faith groups. We recognise the importance of children and young people valuing themselves and others, their schools, families, local communities and the wider world. This is of utmost importance in light of the ever changing nature of society and religion in the world. We seek to understand and celebrate diversity and to encourage a sense of stewardship of the earth, through engaged Buddhist practice.

•• Donations ••

Our long-term aim is for Vitarka to become self sustaining so we can continue to offer this valuable service for as long as possible.

Suggested donations for school visits: £2.50-£3.00 per visitor for a 1.5 hour period or £40 for a 1.5 hour visit to your school, plus travelling expenses. Please give what you can to support this work.

•• The Bristol Buddhist Centre ••

The Centre runs classes, courses and retreats in Buddhism, Buddhist meditation and yoga. Centre teachers have been teaching Buddhism and meditation in Bristol for more than 20 years. We have been at our current Centre since 1997. We are part of the Friends of the Western Buddhist Order (FWBO), a modern Buddhist movement dedicated to making the traditional teachings of Buddhism relevant to people living in the modern world. For further information about Centre activities:

<http://www.bristol-buddhist-centre.org>

or call 0117 924 9991.

Bristol Buddhist Centre
162 Gloucester Rd Bishopston N. Bristol



The
Vitarka
Project

**Buddhism in
schools and the
wider Bristol
community**

We welcome school visits to the Bristol Buddhist Centre. We tailor visits to the interest of your particular group of students. Popular activities are: visiting a Buddhist shrine room, learning meditation and chanting, and hearing an introduction to Buddhism. We can sometimes provide visitors to your school or college.

As a local teacher, your main interests might be:

- showing your pupils a local place of worship
- exploring religious similarities and differences
- understanding different festival days
- making sense of traditional Buddhist teachings, e.g. the noble eight fold path
- understanding the Buddha as the leader of a major world faith

Please contact us to find out how we can tailor your visit to suit your group's interest in Buddhism.

The Vitarka Project

The Vitarka Project is an innovative project, designed to take Buddhism into schools, educational settings and the wider community in and around Bristol, under the aegis of the Bristol Buddhist Centre. The Centre has been undertaking school visits for the past decade. From April 07 to March 08, Vitarka was fortunate to receive grant funding from the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund to further contribute to the development of a culture of tolerance and mutual respect through outreach work to schools and the wider community in and around Bristol. We continue to develop this work, beyond this funded phase, developing its long term sustainability.



.. Why 'Vitarka'? ..

In Buddhism there are hand positions which are called 'mudras'. 'Vitarka' is the name of the mudra which means the communication and transmission of the Buddha's teachings, which seemed very appropriate for this work!

.. Contact ..

If you would like to find out more about Vitarka, arrange a school visit to the Bristol Buddhist Centre, or a visitor to your school or group, please call the Buddhist Centre: 0117 924 9991 or email Dharmacharini Kamalamani:

kamalamani@blueyonder.co.uk



Dharmacharini Kamalamani

is the part time Education Co-ordinator at the Bristol Buddhist Centre. Kamalamani is a qualified Humanities and Social Science teacher and has 15 years teaching and training experience. She is used to working with a wide range of people in cross cultural settings. Most importantly, she brings her enthusiasm and love of living, practising and sharing the teachings of the Buddha to this role. She is an ordained member of the Western Buddhist Order and lives and works in Bristol. Kamalamani is supported by a committed and experienced team of volunteers from the Bristol Buddhist Centre.