

www.DerbyOpenCentre.org



Promoting social cohesion and good community relations through understanding and personal experience

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Since it was established as a charity in 1981, tens of thousands of pupils and adults have benefited from the services provided by the Open Centre.

Prejudice comes from fear and fear comes from ignorance. Our aim is to replace ignorance with understanding and fear with welcome.

Social cohesion is a high priority for all public institutions, including schools which now have a legal obligation to promote it throughout the curriculum. However, this extract from a recent Ofsted report on a Derbyshire school shows that there is still much to be done:

“There are no opportunities to link to the wider community through fieldwork and contact with local religious groups”

The Open Centre is here to help all local schools meet Ofsted’s expectations.

Many organisations use our services as part of their Equality and Diversity training because a visit to the Open Centre can bridge the gap between theory and personal experience.

The Open Centre is not a faith-based organisation and its unpaid Trustee Directors include religious and non-religious individuals from a range of communities.

Our staff are members of the different communities that make up our city. They are all CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) checked to work with children and they are all trained to provide the information about our different communities in a sympathetic way pitched at the correct level for those visiting us – from 5 to 95!

Demand for our services is very high. We do make a charge but our income never quite covers our costs so we are always searching for additional funding.



Our services are used by:

- Schools – as part of RE and Citizenship
- Other educational establishments: colleges, university, nurseries
- Public sector organisations: Police, Fire Service, PCTs, City and County councils, Prison Service, Probation Service, Social Services, Magistrate training etc.
- Private sector companies and organisations
- Local groups interested in good community relations

Our services include:

- Visits to places of worship: Islamic Mosque, Hindu Mandir, Sikh Gurdwara, black-led Christian churches, rural churches and chapels.
- Workshops on a wide variety of topics including: Asian food, Asian costume and dress, Hindu and Muslim wedding ceremonies, Mehndi (henna) hand painting, African-Caribbean food, black history.
- Speakers for school assemblies and lessons as well as for talks, debates and panel discussions for schools and adult groups.

Booking our services

Please see our web site for the most up to date list of our services, our current price list and a form to make an on-line booking enquiry.

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We look forward to welcoming you to Derby Open Centre.