

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Young Inter-Faith Project

Pupils and teachers from eight Cambridgeshire and two Peterborough primary schools attended the 'Let's Get Together' team-building day at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park.

The team-building day was the first phase of the project. The aim was to encourage children from different backgrounds, cultures and faith to meet together and get to know one another, so that they were more confident in asking searching and challenging questions of each other. In the long term it is hoped that this would promote community cohesion and respect for the rich and diverse population in our country.

110 children were challenged throughout the day to work together in mixed groups. They participated in dance, art, outdoor team-building exercises and science based activities. Supported by four Advanced Skills Teachers, Stem Team and a Park Ranger, the children's apprehension soon grew into enthusiasm and enjoyment as each activity proceeded. By lunchtime, the children were more relaxed and began to share stories of the morning's activities.



A film crew of 9 children had prepared a set of culture related questions and conducted interviews of both the pupils and adults present. The resulting footage will be used to progress the project to its next phase and form the basis of a teaching DVD resource.

At the closing celebration pupils were asked to return to their schools and share their experiences of the day with peers at assemblies. Pupils will be encouraged to learn about



forthcoming religious celebrations and prepare for school exchange visits. By using the STARZ digital brain video conferencing facility, the children will enter into further interfaith dialogue with each other and raise additional questions of each other's culture.

The project's overall objective is for the young people to gain positive attitudes and respect towards other people who hold different beliefs and values to their own before they have

developed any sense of difference. It will also support their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and aid the promotion of community cohesion within their respective communities.

For further information, contact Sue Ward, R.E. Adviser, Cambridgeshire Advisory Service on 01480 375881.



Faith and culture barrier breaker



Webcam project won't stop at school gate

Sue Ward and Dennis Marshall from OCYPS have raised £5000 to help schools break down faith and culture barriers.

Sue, a Religious Education Adviser for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Standing Councils for Religious Education (SACRE) and Dennis, from St Anne's Church of England Primary School, secured the funding from the National Association of Standing Councils for Religious Education (NASACRE).

The funding will give six Cambridgeshire rural primary schools an exciting and innovative school webcam project. By linking up with two large city primary schools in Peterborough using webcam technology pupils will share discussion about their interests, backgrounds, faiths and cultures.

"The aim is to break-down prejudices about groups of people who are perceived to be different. Children will also produce a DVD, talking about their lifestyles and interests and how their different backgrounds impact on values and beliefs," explained Sue.

"The benefits of the project won't stop at the school gate either. As children and parents gain understanding of different religions, creeds and cultures, it will build community cohesion and increase respect for the county's diverse population."

For further information contact Sue Ward on 01480 375881.