

## Edge Hill PGCE R.E. Booster Visit



Exploring Islamic Practices,  
Muslim Culture and The  
Role Of A Mosque

‘Summary of Outputs’  
September 2011

“

As a PGCE tutor I highly recommend Waqaus Ali and *thinkBRITE* Services.

My trainees have gained the all important insider perspective on Islam through engaging, interactive and thought provoking sessions. Feedback from trainees has been consistently positive and they are unanimous that they are able to deliver their RE with increased confidence.

Most importantly it has stimulated their interest and enthusiasm to teach Islam through exciting and enquiring RE ”

Francis Farrell | R.E PGCE Course Leader |  
Edge Hill University

# Training Summary

## Who



- Edge Hill PGCE Faculty of Religious Education
- 14 PGCE Trainee Teachers
- 3 Course Leaders / Staff



Edge Hill University

## Why



**‘Educating the Educator’**  
This training aimed to equip Trainee Teachers with

- the necessary knowledge of core Islamic beliefs & practices
- to gain deeper understanding of Muslim culture and lifestyle
- to explore the role of a Mosque in community life
- to enhance self-confidence to teach R.E Islam

## What

### A Half-Day Training Event

- Held in a Mosque-based setting

### Tour of the Mosque

- Observation of a congregational prayer with commentary
- Meeting the Imam

### 4 Informative Sessions + Q n A

- Exploring Islam beyond 5 Pillars
- Spirituality (Ihsan) and the concept of ‘Deen’ (a way of life)
- Historical perspective of British Islam & Muslims in Britain
- An insider’s view of being a Muslim in 21st century Britain
- Answers to FAQs from Teachers
- Interactive & fun sessions with plenty of refreshments!

# Expected Outputs

---



- Trainees will enhance their confidence and knowledge of the subject matter
- Trainees will know what is meant by ‘Islam as a way of life’ and the concept of ‘Deen’
- Trainees will expand their understanding of Islamic beliefs (Iman), practices (5 Pillars) and spirituality (Ihsan)
- Trainees will visit a Mosque and observe a congregational prayer in order to better appreciate the functions of a Mosque and how it serves the needs of the local community
- Trainees will know how to use a Mosque-visit to educate their school groups
- Trainees will better appreciate the relationship between faith and culture by listening first-hand to a British Muslim
- Trainees will learn the historical roots of British Islam and the demographics of the British Muslim community
- Trainees will be able to better tackle common misconceptions and provide authentic answers to FAQs on Islam & Muslims

# Feedback From Group Exercise

(all comments taken from delegate feedback)



## What new things did trainees learn about Islam & Muslims?

### Islam as a 'Deen'

- The meaning of 'Deen' and understanding what is meant by Islam as 'a way of life'
- We learnt that Islam was not only a relationship between man & God but also a relationship between man and God's creation.
- As well as rights of God, Islam encourages Muslims to honour rights of the creation – family, neighbours, environment, social rights, guests, animals, non-Muslims etc. Honouring these rights is also an act of worship.

### Prayer & Ablution

- Dua (Supplication) is another (non-physical) form of worship outside the 5 daily prayers
- There are daily supplications for almost every action of the daily life – drinking water, milk, eating, sleeping, entering a house, greeting, going to toilet, putting on clothes etc)
- Didn't know you could join mid-prayer or start a new congregational prayer if you were late!
- Didn't know about the order of prayer or the units of prayer
- Didn't know that there were pre-congregational prayers!
- Didn't know there was a particular 'age' at which 5 daily prayers becomes compulsory upon Muslims
- Two forms of ablution to purify oneself before praying – 1. Water (Wudhu) and 2. Earth/dust (Tayyamum) if there is no access to water. Learnt the actions of both. methods



# Feedback From Group Exercise

(all comments taken from delegate feedback)



## The Mosque ('Masjid' which means a place of prostration)

- How accommodating the mosque is to guests
- Young Muslims dedication to prayer / their faith
- Greetings of a Muslim and its meaning
- What the inside features of a Mosque look like
- 'Mimbar' – where the Imam sits
- The call to prayer and it's meaning
- The story of Bilal – an Abyssinian slave who was honoured by the Prophet as the first caller to prayer (call to prayer is known as the adhan)

## The Prophet Muhammed As A Role Model

- Prophet Muhammed was sent as a final extension of the Abrahamic tradition and a universal prophet for all mankind
- Variation of Dress codes for Muslim devotees
- Muslims love for emulating the Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) and references to him in their life – Names, dress, beards etc
- 'Muhammed (pbuh) inspiring us in Accrington' video showed us how the Prophet inspires young British Muslims today

## Other Learning Points

- The definition of Jihad – “to struggle” and its conditions
- The diversity within Islam and the make-up of British Muslims
- Learning historical roots of Islamic culture in Britain
- Entering and leaving the mosque with a certain foot – right to enter and left to exit



## Islam & Charity

- Different forms of charity outside the obligatory Zakah such as (Sadaqah, Lillah etc)
- Learnt the difference between obligatory charity (Zakah) and voluntary contributions (Sadaqah & Lillah)

*“Today was brilliant because it opened up channels of communication with an Islamic faith community”*  
**A Cowley**

*“My experience was brilliant. I immediately felt very welcome and the knowledge that was given to me has given me a great foundation on which to build further knowledge”*  
**J Ball**

*“A true eye opener – I feel I can go away confident and teacher others about the wonders of Islam”*  
**S Kelly**

# What Course Attendees Had To Say ...

*“I have had a great afternoon, learning and seeing more about Islam and talking about my ideas on dealing with misconceptions”*  
**N McDermott**

*“I found today a fascinating experience as it was unique being able to explore a mosque and have it’s aspects explained”*  
**K Wright**

*“An excellent insight to Islam with great ideas for RE Teachers to take away for the classroom. An inspirational initiative – thank you”*  
**M Munshi**

*“Fantastic day. Before I arrived I would say my knowledge of Islam was 3/10 and upon leaving 8/10”*  
**D Tidswell**

(all comments taken from delegate feedback forms)

# Effective Ways To Break-down Ignorance Through Education

Experience  
A Visit  
To The  
Mosque



## Explore The Insides Of A Mosque

A Mosque is the 'hub' of a Muslim community - *thinkBRITE* welcomes school groups to step into a Muslim place of worship and explore ...

Try our popular *half-day learning experience*, superbly designed to be *interactive, bite-sized* and *information-packed!*

The visit will include:

A tour of the Mosque | 3 Workshop Sessions | A Live Prayer | Refreshments

**"From spending as little as 3 hours in the Mosque has changed my perception of Islam - thank you!"**

*(Sukbir Kaur, Trainee teacher, Edge Hill University)*

## Myth-Busting Workshops

Whatever the topic, *thinkBRITE* has qualified Imams and faith representatives on hand to *visit your school*.

We deliver a range of *myth-busting workshops* and short assemblies.

Don't be afraid to ask a question. All our sessions are designed to create a 'safe' & 'open' space for delegates to learn.



*Next page for menu*

## RE Islam Teacher Training

- Professional Development
- Tour of a Mosque / Observe a prayer
- Answers to FAQ's on Islam & Muslims from Teachers & Pupils
- Islam as 'a way of life' (Deen)
- Islam Beliefs, Practices & Spirituality
- Know Your British Muslim Pupils



## Basics of Islam

- 5 Pillars of Islam
- Understanding Islam as 'a way of life'
- 'Question Time' on Islam & Muslims
- The Quran
- What is Zakah
- Hajj and its deeper meaning



## Islam & Other Religions

- The Meaning of 'God' to Muslims
- Abrahamic Faiths; Similarities & Differences
- Islam & Christianity
- The Islamic Perspective on Jesus



## Diversity & Cohesion

- Conflict Resolution: What's faith got to do with it
- Role Models: Why we all need one?
- Contribution To Society – a faith perspective



**thinkBRITE Services – a range of courses for Teachers & Schools**

## Islam & Women

- Role of Women in Islam
- Are Muslim Women Oppressed?
- Islam, Marriage & Sexuality
- Muslim Women as role models
- Modesty for a Muslim Woman
- Hijab & Niqab – Choice or Force?



## The Prophet Muhammed

- Lessons from the life of the Prophet Muhammed
- Great Leaders of the world
- What Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) means to Muslims



## Islamic History

- History of Islam in British Isles
- The Golden Age Of Civilisation
- Lessons from Muslim Spain
- Inspirational Stories From The Quran



## Islamic Ethics & Charity

- Charity in Islam
- Islamic Perspective on Social Justice
- Alleviating Global Poverty
- Islam, Interest & The Economy

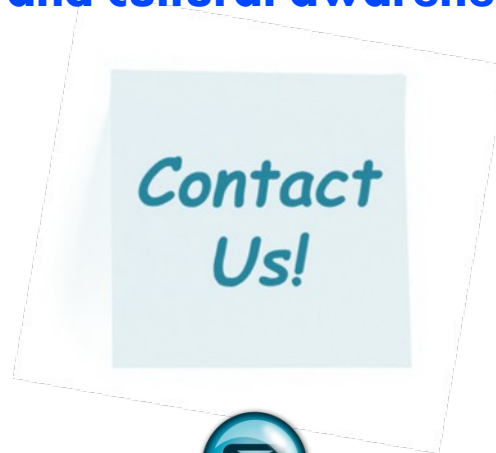


Whatever the subject theme ... just *think*BRITE!



*think***BRITE**  
S E R V I C E S

***think*BRITE is a community-based organisation specialising in the delivery of community cohesion and cultural awareness training and education**



**0787 541 6024**



**[enquiries@tbservices.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@tbservices.org.uk)**



**[www.tbservices.org.uk](http://www.tbservices.org.uk)**