

Putting faith in education



Pupils at Allenbourn Middle School took part in a 'Many Faiths Living Together' project in which community leaders from five faiths visited the school to give their perspective.

Pupils at one Dorset school were given a fascinating insight into five different religions when their RE lessons were brought to life during a special multi-faith day.

Allenbourn Middle School in Wimborne welcomed five people representing Judaism, Christianity, humanism, Buddhism and Islam to give their children a first person account of following a religion or faith.

This multi-faith day was organised in partnership with DEED – the centre for global education and learning serving Dorset and Hampshire.

Head of RE, Jane Jackson, said: “I believe it is important to give students the opportunity to put forward deep questions of their own in RE.

“This day enabled them to discuss different faiths and beliefs and to see how these impact upon day-to-day lives and the community as a whole.

“It was a fantastic way of enabling students to have a voice and to interact with our DEED visitors representing the different faiths we have in our country.”

During the day, the Wimborne Academy Trust school held different workshops to explore a diverse range of world faiths and beliefs with their visitors - Lynda Ford-Horne, representing the Jewish faith, Salimata Knight (Buddhism), Rev James Sharp (Christianity), Sister Tama (Islam) and David Warden (Humanism).

The speakers were able to share their experiences and engage with the pupils in an open minded and inquisitive setting.

Headteacher Cindy Pritchard, said: "You can gain knowledge from text books, the classroom and Google but it's people that help bring learning to life.

"This was a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to gain a much deeper understanding and appreciation for the faiths they are learning about in RE."

CEO of Wimborne Academy Trust, Liz West, added: "We are very grateful to the DEED visitors who gave up their time to help the children not only learn more about individual faiths but also open their eyes to the multi-cultural society they are growing up in."