

## **Burnley and Pendle Faith Centre**

The Burnley and Pendle Faith Centre was established by Lancashire County Council in 2006, to provide a focus for the educational, personal and spiritual development for children, young people and the wider community. Since then, it has operated very successfully and many schools make good use of the Faith Centre and the learning opportunities offered and facilitated by the Community Faith Co-ordinator and colleagues.

Due to the on-going reduction in grant funding that Lancashire County Council is receiving, it was necessary to consider the sustainability of non-statutory services such as those offered by the Faith Centre and consider alternative means of funding or delivery. Therefore, since September 2014 the Faith Centre has been operating as a traded service with the intention of making full cost recovery.

Schools are able to buy into the Faith Centre offer at a daily consultancy rate or as part of a Service Level Agreement. For schools choosing this option, they have access to a range of facilities and services. This includes work with a small group, class, department or whole school.

Numerous schools use pupil premium funding against the Faith Centre buy back as the Faith Centre contributes to the learning and progress of pupils against which there are measurable outcomes.

Since October 2014 over 50 schools have bought into the service. Initially this was offered to Burnley & Pendle schools, however since September 2015 to sustain the service it has been offered across Lancashire. This has been well received with an increasing number of schools from across the county now taking advantage of the service.

Offered Services include support with RE, visits to places of worship, community cohesion sessions delivered at the Faith Centre, assemblies, Interfaith Days/weeks, support with transition, development of school links and partnerships, mentoring and training for teachers.

An increasing number of schools are also getting in touch and requesting support on delivering 'British Values' in the classroom and support and guidance on the Prevent agenda. This has led to the development of partnerships with other Lancashire Services and partner agencies. Additionally The Faith Centre is able to support schools in developing the impact of the curriculum on the pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development.

Feedback from schools that have engaged has been very positive. To further enhance the service, there is a need to co-ordinate the offer centrally for Lancashire. This will allow quality assurance and ensure all parts of the county can be supported effectively.

A number of recommendations have been made by the Lancashire SACRE Quality & Standards sub-group which include development of a new webpage linked to the SACRE website and consultation on the Faith Centre Title, Image and Marketing strategy.