

## FAITH IN FOOTBALL

Faith in Football Working Group The Faith in Football Working Group was established in June 2011. The aim of the group

- is to use football to advise the FA on breaking down barriers and promoting social cohesion across faith based communities
- to advise the FA on religious and faith based issues which impacts on those communities and



- on opportunities for communities to participate in the game, who have previously not engaged.

These aims are achieved through education and faith based football related activities. What are we trying to achieve?

Football creates unique opportunities for people of different faiths and beliefs to come together and enjoy the game. The FA along with its stakeholders are seeking to use education to break down barriers between people of different faiths and religions in a safe and fun environment. Faith in Football Education Programme

Over the past twelve months, the working group has showcased its Faith in Football education programme. The aim of this project is to deliver a joint partnership supported pilot between the FA, Wembley Learning Zone and Three faiths forum that brought together three single faith schools from the Catholic, Jewish and Muslim communities to Wembley, engaging sixty 5-6 year olds four times over 12 months. Amongst some of the projects achievements were:

- 100% attendance at the four linking sessions at Wembley involving 3 primary schools from the London Borough of Brent. These included St. Monica's Catholic School, Al Sadiq and Al Zahra School and the North West London Jewish Day School
  - 60 children participated in the link programme
  - 60 children and 60 parents gained a broader understanding of different faith based groups and tolerance of different communities
  - 60 children of Catholic, Jewish and Muslim faiths have engaged with the Tesco Skills Programme
  - 60 children have developed a heightened awareness of each of their counterparts faith
  - 60 children and 60 parents completed the Wembley tour
  - 60 children successfully completed the programme
- Who are the stakeholders?

- Kick it Out - [www.kickitout.org](http://www.kickitout.org)
- Asia Europe - <http://www.oneculture.tv/>
- Muslim Women Sports Foundation - <http://www.mwsf.org.uk/>
- Three Faith Forums [www.threefaithsforum.org.uk](http://www.threefaithsforum.org.uk)
- Osmani Trust - <http://www.osmanitrust.org/>
- Wembley Learning Zone - <http://wembleystadium.com/Organisation/Local-Communities>
- Members from the FA Race Equality Advisory Group
- Metropolitan Police Safe Neighborhood Teams