

The Merton Faith Guiding Course 2026

An opportunity to get to know people and places of different faiths
and gain an accredited Faith Guiding Qualification

Who is a Faith Guide?

A guide trained to lead a high-quality educational visit to
their own place of worship



(Members of the Merton Interfaith Walk visit Faith Sites across Merton)

**Enhance your tour presentation skills and gain
an Institute of Tourist Guiding White Badge**



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There are so many beautiful sacred buildings in the Borough of Merton and they are visited by thousands of school children, students and adults every year. With a trained Faith guide these visits are inspiring and a fascinating experience, benefiting the hosts as well as the visitors and building good relationships across the communities in Merton.

The Faith guiding course will involve five faiths across the borough, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish and Muslim. The course is twelve weeks (with a mid-term break) including five visits to places of worship of different faiths. Teaching methods are practical and interactive. Some sessions will be face to face and others on Zoom/Teams.



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There are three areas of study

1. Interpretation of your faith to others
2. Tour Guiding Skills
3. Understanding of other faiths

Management and Support:

The course is designed by the Awareness Foundation a charity with over 20 years of interfaith experience building 'Peace through Education' both nationally and internationally. Much of its recent work has centred on Syria but in the UK, it has run courses and conferences bringing people of different faiths together.

The Patron of the Awareness Foundation is the Duchess of Edinburgh and The Revd Nadim Nassar a Syrian British Anglican priest is the Executive Director and Founder of the Awareness Foundation. With its educational and interfaith experience, the foundation is the ideally placed to facilitate this course.



The course directors Richard Smart and Rosemary Barnes who are both experienced Tourist guides and Institute Tour Guides trainers. They are excited that the Merton pilot course will eventually take place in other London boroughs.

The course is assessed by the Institute of Tourist Guiding (ITG) – guides can choose between a Merton certificated course awarded by the Awareness Foundation and/or The White Badge examined by the ITG. Advice and support is given by local faith advisers to the course representing Buddhist, Christian, Hindu and Muslim faiths. Many will take an active part in visits to faith sites.



The Merton Faith Guiding course has been developed in association with The Merton Interfaith Forum, The University of Roehampton, The South London Inter Faith Group.



When?

Tuesdays 6.00pm - 9.00pm
Commencing September 1st 2026 for 12 weeks

Where?

Starting at Merton Civic Centre with frequent outside visits to faith sites
Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden SM4 5DX

Who can Apply?

Anyone over 18 years who can speak English
A practicing member of a faith community
Who can provide a reference from a leader of your local place of worship
The course fee will be £25 for the 12 Sessions

Application and Information?

Richard Smart
Mobile: 07749-607905
richard@rjsmart.com

If you would like to:

- * Know more about other faiths.
- * Guide people around your place of worship.
- * Improve your presentation and guiding skills.
- * Enjoy meeting people of different faiths and communities.

this may be the course for you.



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awareness
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