



Faith in schools

In what ways do Jewish and Muslim faith schools in Britain play a role in promoting and contributing to community cohesion? What 21st-century skills around intercultural understanding do they foster? **Germ Janmaat** talks about the book he has co-written with Marie Parker-Jenkins and Meli Glenn.

Our book examines the nuances of faith in school settings and draws on a case study of Jewish and Muslim faith schools in England – all within a historical perspective on faith schools and their relationship with the state in the UK and elsewhere in Europe. It gives an overview of key debates on faith schools. How do these institutions play a role in sustaining their own religious heritage while also engaging with, and providing a place of safety from, the wider community? It examines practical curricular suggestions that all schools can adopt to develop skills around tolerance and engagement, to prepare students to live and lead in a diverse 21st century.

Our one-to-one interviews with teachers, parents and community representatives, and our focus groups with children, provided a detailed understanding of Jewish and Muslim concepts of community; perceptions of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia; alternatives for preparing children for the skills and knowledge needed today and tomorrow; implications for policy and practice in faith schools and those not characterized by a religious ethos or affiliation.

Please see page 24 for further details on **Reaching In, Reaching Out: Faith schools, community engagement, and 21st-century skills for intercultural understanding**.

Germ Janmaat would welcome your feedback at

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