



JCMA
Jewish Christian Muslim
Association of Australia



Intercultural Understanding Workshops

This interactive workshop provides a Jewish, Christian and Muslim presenter for a 60–90-minute presentation. The program has been running since 2007 and aims to increase understanding of the three faiths, highlighting similarities and differences to encourage respect for diversity.

The aim is to educate students to be more accepting of others and feel more empathy toward people who are different to themselves and to reduce the willingness of students to be involved in or to condone harmful stereotypes, prejudiced judgements, behaviours and speech. Workshops can be adapted to a range of themes and topics:

- ✚ **VCE Religion and Society** – supporting curriculum outcomes, a Muslim, Christian and Jew explain their faith tradition and personal stories, while referencing the 9 aspects of religion
- ✚ **VCE Text and Tradition** - supporting curriculum outcomes, a Muslim, Christian and Jew explain their faith tradition and personal stories, with specific reference to their religious texts and their influence
- ✚ **Intercultural Understanding** – hearing a Muslim, Christian and Jew explain their faith tradition and their personal stories as a member of that group within the multicultural Australian context
- ✚ **Single Faith** –in-depth presentation of one tradition, and how that person’s life is shaped by it
- ✚ **Ethics** – listening to a Muslim, Christian and Jew explain foundational ethical concepts of their tradition, as well as their personal stories within that personal faith tradition.
- ✚ **Gender** - hearing a Muslim, Christian and Jew explain about how gender is understood by each tradition and how this idea shapes the person’s life choices.
- ✚ **Dispelling Stereotypes** – asking students to reflect upon the stereotypical perceptions that exists about each of the three traditions, and then hearing a Muslim, Christian and Jew respond
- ✚ **Challenging Prejudice** – when a school community finds itself needing to respond to a racist incident, a Muslim, Christian or Jew can discuss their experiences of prejudice

Links to the Victorian Curriculum

There are multiple opportunities for students to learn about worldviews, different beliefs and practices throughout the Victorian F-10 curriculum, including the core competencies. Some curriculum links include:

History: Significant contributions of individuals and groups, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and migrants, to changing Australian society (VCHHK096)

English: Identify and explore ideas and viewpoints about events, issues and characters represented in texts drawn from different historical, social and cultural contexts (VCELT393)

Geography: Similarities and differences in individuals’ and groups’ feelings and perceptions about places, and how they influence views about the protection of these places (VCGGK083)

Intercultural Capability: Identify challenges & benefits of living and working in a culturally diverse society (VCICCD015)

Civics and Citizenship: Discuss how & why groups, including religious groups, participate in civic life (VCCCC037)

Personal and Social Capability: Explore and discuss behaviours that demonstrate sensitivity to individual, social and cultural differences (VCPSCSO029)

Ethical Capability: Explore and discuss behaviours that demonstrate sensitivity to individual, social and cultural differences (VCPSCSO029)

What Teachers Are Saying

"It introduces students in an engaging way to the deep, important, bigger picture issues of morality, ethics, identity and culture, and the how faith forms those. It gives students the opportunity for interesting discussion" Mount Lilydale, Tom Leydon.

"Students are still talking about last week and your presentation was certainly a conversation starter in many classes" St Helena College, James Hardingham.

JCMA Teacher Professional Development Workshops

JCMA provides thought provoking workshops on understanding culture and unconscious bias to empower teachers to facilitate meaningful intercultural and interfaith conversations in their classrooms and in their schools. We offer a range of workshop and conference sessions including 1-3 hour interactive programs, half and full-day sessions and can be delivered online or face to face. The programs aim to:

- Prepare teachers to support their students to navigate our culturally complex world
- Introduce teachers to critical pedagogical principles of Intercultural education
- Offer the experience of activities and resources that are classroom ready
- Reflect upon personal practice and apply to real life situations

Based on feedback from our schools, JCMA has developed a new workshop 'Engaging Parents & Families From Diverse Cultural Background's'. In this workshop we explore the role of culture and faith, unconscious bias and how this leads to improved parent engagement and better educational outcomes for students. For more information on teacher PD please visit our website: [Teacher-Professional Learning](#).

JCMA Resources for Teachers

- JCMA Comparative Guide to Religion on the JCMA website [Comparative Religions](#)
- Activities such as the JCMA Friendship Walk
- A range of classroom activities and teacher guides are available: 'Rules For Intercultural/ Interfaith Dialogue', 'Understanding My Own Culture' and 'Understanding My Own Unconscious Bias'.

For More Information Or To Book A Workshop

For more information or to book call Ginette on 0400 211 221 or email schoolscoordinator@jcma.org.au or visit our website: <http://jcma.org.au/jcmaschoolsworkshops/>

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