

TEN TOP TIPS for a successful youth encounter

1. **EVEN NUMBERS**

Even numbers are so important! Recruiting equal numbers of each faith is hard work, but it is a key way of creating a safe and inclusive environment and ensuring a balanced conversation.

2. **GOOD ATMOSPHERE**

Games which build up each other's trust and a sense of excitement are a great way of breaking the ice and help to create the safe space and good atmosphere! That way, when you start talking about faith, people feel a lot more open and ready to share!

3. **RELEVANT TOPICS**

Imagine yourself as a thirteen-year-old – what would you want to talk about? Think about topics which are relevant to the young peoples' lives. If it's a topic which young people want to talk about with their friends, they are far more likely to talk about it with peers of a different faith too!

4. **GUIDELINES FOR DIALOGUE**

Creating a safe space is key, and our *Guidelines for Dialogue* set out guidelines and ground rules for discussions to ensure that all young people (and adults!) feel safe to talk honestly and openly about their beliefs. You can view and download them on our website

5. **SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES**

It's great to celebrate the things that we have in common with people of a different faith, and often young people will come to events and find out that they do have similarities which they didn't think they had.

BUT, don't be afraid to talk about differences too! This can be much harder, but if we're honest we do know that we don't agree on everything; the challenge is learning how to disagree peacefully!

6. **NO LONG TALKS**

It's important at a *youth* event that it is the *young people* who are doing most of the talking

7. **WORK TOGETHER**

Give the young people an opportunity to work together to make a difference to the world around them, whether it be a litter pick or to visiting an age care home.

Planning an encounter around a joint project is a great platform for bringing young people together

8. **BE POSITIVE**

It's so important that young people are positive about their own faith, without being critical of other people's. That way, everyone gets a chance to speak and be heard, and the young people will have a chance to learn about different faiths, and even disagree, peacefully

9. **TELL YOUR STORY**

We don't need or expect young people to be experts in their faith, just to be able to share their opinions, beliefs and experiences. Being honest about your journey and your story can greatly encourage them to be telling their own story – which is always better than arguing why you think you are right.

10. **EAT TOGETHER!**

Food brings people together, creates a fun atmosphere, and young people **love** it! It can also be a great opportunity to try out some new types of cuisine! We are called The Feast after all!

<https://thefeast.org.uk/>