Videoconferencing with Face to Faith.

What is videoconferencing? Videoconferencing lets your school connect directly with schools in different locations. Using simple internet technology, your classroom can speak to and see other classrooms across the world.

We connect all our schools through the Bluejeans bridging system; which accepts signals from many different kinds of hardware and software (most of our schools use Skype!) It is usually simple to connect, and we offer full technical support to ensure that your school are able to get videoconferencing quickly and easily.

Facilitation. Facilitated video-conferences are an integral part of Face to Faith, offering a vital opportunity for students to exchange views and understand different perspectives.

Please note that all videoconferences must be booked a minimum of 14 days in advance.

Each Face to Faith video-conference is lead by an expert facilitator. Our facilitators are present to facilitate both discussion and understanding, so may be proactive in helping students to explore their ideas more deeply. Each facilitator has many years of practice in the secondary classroom or is otherwise experienced in facilitating discussion amongst young people. Importantly, each facilitator has a deep understanding of world religions and is able to steer discussions, correct misconceptions and follow through interesting points and ideas raised by the students.

Face to Faith offers 4 types of videoconferences:

1. Pre-scheduled multipoint video conferences: These are based on the Face to Faith modules. There are up to six scheduled in any one month at 3am, 8am and 3pm GMT. The schedule is designed so that students of similar ages are in dialogue with one another, 12 – 14 year olds and 15 – 17 year olds. There is no need for you to find a partner for these video conferences – you partner with the other schools that book in. Up to four schools can book into any one slot. These are offered at 60 and 90 minutes. See the booking form for upcoming opportunities.

2. Partnered video conferences: These video conferences involve you finding a partner, with the help of your country coordinator, who wishes to connect their students of similar age with yours and on your agreed module/ topic. These are 60 minutes in length. The advantages of this sort of video conference are that you can choose your own date and time.
and request a specific culture, country or faith tradition. The disadvantages are it can be a long process of finding a partner and agreeing on a time and date.

3. **Special day** video conferences: these video conferences are very special. FTF sources inspirational guests for your students to learn from and discuss contemporary issues with. There is a high demand for these video conferences so check out the website regularly and book as early as possible. For most of these video conferences there is a short programme of study to ready the students. These are multipoint meaning that up to four schools can join the guests. These are 90 minutes in length.

4. **Professional development** video conferences: offered for teachers only to share their ideas and best practices for the teaching and learning about faith, values and belief. Check the website often for these opportunities.

Other possibilities for the technology include -

- Bringing in special guest speakers from particular religious traditions to answer students' questions.
- Presenting to teacher, parent and student groups.

**Why can’t we just connect by Skype?**

At Face to Faith we are committed to ensuring that all students have the very best experience possible through our videoconferences.

Face to Faith Videoconferences **always** have

- A **Facilitator** to manage the flow of the discussion, to ask those probing questions, and to ensure that the discussion doesn’t go into areas where you are uncomfortable.
- A **Bridge** to provide permanent technical support throughout the vc, to ensure as high a quality of signal as possible, to deal with technical issues.
- **Recording** – for you to watch your videoconference afterwards, and to help develop student’s skills. (You will be asked when you book your vc if you want to share it – you don’t have to!)

We use the bridge to ensure that all these different aspects work - that you are well supported. This becomes particularly important for multipoint videoconference - where several sites are connected.