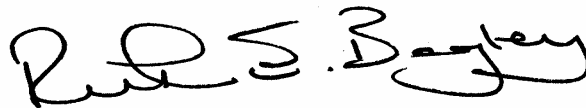


Date of issue: 2nd February, 2010

MEETING	STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
DATE AND TIME:	WEDNESDAY, 10TH FEBRUARY, 2010 AT 4.30 PM
VENUE:	COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, BATH ROAD, SLOUGH
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER: (for all enquiries)	CLAIRE GRAY 01753 875120

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are requested to attend the above Meeting at the time and date indicated to deal with the business set out in the following agenda.



RUTH BAGLEY
Chief Executive

NOTE TO MEMBERS

This meeting is an approved duty for the payment of travel expenses.

AGENDA

PART 1

**AGENDA
ITEM**

REPORT TITLE

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| | Welcome and Apologies for absence. | |
| 1. | Minutes of the Last Meeting | 1 - 4 |



<u>AGENDA ITEM</u>	<u>REPORT TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
2.	Matters Arising	
3.	Membership Update	5 - 8
4.	Application for a Renewal of a Determination - Montem Primary School	9 - 12
5.	Report on visit to an RE lesson - Jo Osbourne	
6.	Slough Religious Studies Centre Update - Jo Osbourne	
7.	Use of SACRE Funds to Support Schools	13 - 16
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Youth SACRE – reports on different models and discussion of how this idea might be taken forward</i> - <i>RE Newsletter – discussion of a proposal to fund and publish a 3 times a year newsletter on RE issues – a sample is attached</i> 	
8.	Joint SACREs Conference 2010 - Update on plans for 15 June	
9.	LOtC (Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge)	17 - 20
	<p><i>Discussion of whether the SACRE would want to encourage the use of this in Slough. (Further information can be found at http://www.lotcqualitybadge.org.uk/home)</i></p>	
10.	Date of Next Meeting	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wednesday, 9th June, 2010 	

Press and Public

You are welcome to attend this meeting which is open to the press and public, as an observer. You will however be asked to leave before the Committee considers any items in the Part II agenda. Special facilities may be made available for disabled or non-English speaking persons. Please contact the Democratic Services Officer shown above for further details.

**Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education – Meeting held on
Wednesday, 14th October, 2009.**

Present:-

Committee 1 – Christian Denominations and Other Faiths

Sue Elbrow – Free Churches
Jo Osborne – Judaism
Latif Khan – Islam

Committee 2 – Church of England

Christine Isles
Andrew Allen
Jo Fageant

Committee 3 – Representatives of Teacher Associations

Lil Abdo – VOICE

Committee 4 – Representatives of the LEA

Councillor Coad
Councillor Maclsaac
Councillor Mann
Councillor Pabbi

Also Present: Annie Keighley, Senior Adviser, Standards and Achievement
and Claire Gray (Clerk)

Apologies: Lynda Bussley

PART I

1. Election of Chair

Resolved - That Jo Fageant be appointed Chair for 2009/10 Academic Year.
The meeting noted its thanks to Lil Abdo for her work as Chair over the past
years.

2. Election of Vice-Chair

Resolved – That Jo Osborne be appointed Vice-Chair for the 2009/10
Academic Year.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were approved subject to the attendance list
being amended to replace Councillor Fageant with Jo Fageant.

4. Matters Arising

The Council was informed that the Advance Skills Teacher had not been able to attend the last meeting due to another commitment and a representative from Surrey SACRE had not been able to attend as they had been given the incorrect time for the meeting.

The Senior Advisor, Standards and Achievement informed the SACRE that there was approximately £1000 left from the funding for the RE Resources Centre that could be used to support a Youth SACRE.

Resource Base - SACRE continued to support the RE Resource Centre which would continue at Iqra School. In response to a question it was confirmed that the room the centre was to be accommodated in was smaller than the current space. Therefore some of the collections from the resource base had to be, regrettably disposed of. It was noted that at present the local authority did not have the capacity to store any additional documents. It was reported that the resource base would be accessed via a teaching area in the new school building, which was not ideal. The move would be taking place in half term and members were asked to liaise with the RE Resource Centre Co-ordinator if they were able to provide any assistance.

Advanced Skills Teacher - A member asked whether it was possible to re-invite the Advanced Skills Teacher to the next meeting or perhaps visit her within the classroom space. It was suggested that it would be useful to hold the next meeting of SACRE at Wexham School in order to visit her beforehand and invite her to attend the meeting.

Youth SACRE - The Senior Advisor, Standards and Achievement informed the SACRE that there was approximately £1000 of funding that could be used to support a Youth SACRE. The Chair advised that there was money from NASACRE available annually but that SACREs had to bid for the funding. A Member noted that there was a Pupil Participation Group in Slough that could possibly become involved with the Youth SACRE. The Chair noted that Lil Abdo had experience with the Surrey Youth SACRE and Rabbi Solomans was preparing a paper on Youth SACRE. It was suggested that a small group from the SACRE should look into setting up a Youth SACRE and report back on this to a future SACRE meeting. A Member asked about what the aims and objectives of a Youth SACRE were. A number of Youth SACREs were in operation which functioned on slightly different lines. It was agreed that Annie Keighley, David Maclsaac, and Jo Osborne would work together in order to investigate the possibilities for moving forward the Youth SACRE. The Chair confirmed that she would attempt to obtain the information from Rabbi Solomans and Lil Abdo was asked to pass the information on from the Surrey Youth SACRE.

Joint SACRE Conference – It was reported that the conference held on 25th June was very informative and useful but questions were raised about the continuing viability of the joint SACRE conference. The conference joined together the six SACREs from the Berkshire area. The conference was

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education - 14.10.09

funded from the different SACREs and each was charged for five delegates whether they attended or not. Members were asked to consider whether it was useful for Slough to continue with the joint SACRE conference unless it was focussed on something that fed back into the work of Slough SACRE. A Member commented that they felt it was desirable to stay in the joint conference and that Slough should continue to play a part. It was noted that it was useful in bringing SACRE up to date in what was currently happening in RE circles. Members also noted that it would be useful if someone from each faith group was able to attend in future. A report was circulated to all Members from the joint conference.

5. NASACRE Update

Copies of SACRE news were distributed to Members. This included an update on training and the different approaches to it. The Chair noted that this used to be printed and circulated to all members but this was no longer the case and it was only now available via email. Regarding religious institutions in the local area that people could use as a resource by visiting them, a list was kept by the RE Centre and this would be forwarded to members of the SACRE.

A number of Members and some religious groups in particular were not represented well at SACRE. It was agreed to write out to the current representatives asking whether they wished to continue to act as Members of the SACRE. Members suggested that the Constitution allowed for Members to be replaced if they missed three consecutive meetings without providing apologies. It was noted that this would be checked in the Constitution and confirmed. SACRE Members asked for the Constitution to be amended if this was not the case. It was agreed that the different faith groups should be written to regarding representation and the necessity for their SACRE nominations to attend. Members also asked whether it would be possible to have a defined term of service and that this be brought to a future meeting of the SACRE.

Members asked about visiting schools to see RE in action. The Senior Advisor Standards and Achievement noted that there were a number of schools which had agreed to allow SACRE Members to attend some of their RE lessons and if Members were interested in attending they were asked to contact the officer and a meeting would hopefully be arranged before the end of the current term and again in January. It was agreed that a timetable of meetings would be sent to Members.

The Chair informed the meeting that there was a consultation underway on a code of conduct for practicing RE teachers, which any individual could respond to. It was noted that a self evaluation for RE Teachers on the effectiveness and impact of RE in schools was in the process of being updated.

The week beginning 15th November was due to be National Interfaith week. There was lots of different work going on in schools and an email had been

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education - 14.10.09

sent about the activities taking place in Slough. For example, a number of different places of worship had agreed to be opened up to allow visitors. Many of these had not been opened before. Each faith group would be having a particular day in the week and all schools would be involved. It was noted that the NASACRE was conducting recruitment for Members to Group A and training was due to be provided. This included an excellent course for SACRE Members.

6. Any Other Business

A Member informed the Forum that she had been asked to speak at a conference organised by local Sikhs who were concerned about the number of attacks on members of the Sikh community. The organisers were interested in providing information to the SACRE and getting out their message to other people.

Issues were raised about the level of involvement from Humanists on SACREs and in religious education in general. It was noted that there was increasing representation from Humanists on SACREs. A number of Members mentioned concerns about a review of Circular 1/94 which might clarify the position of Humanists on SACREs. In the Slough syllabus, the teaching of Humanist ideas was possible as an option for schools.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The date of next meeting was noted as 10th February, 2010 and the location would be confirmed.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 4.30 pm and closed at 5.55 pm)

SLOUGH STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

MEMBERSHIP
(Updated June 2009)

Committee 1 - Christian Denomination and other Faiths

The Free Churches	-	Mrs Sue Elbrow
Black Free Churches	-	Vacancy
The Roman Catholic Church	-	Mr Kevin Walker
Hinduism	-	Pandit Naresh Saraswat
Islam	-	Mr Soofi Mohammad Afzal Mr Mohammed Latif Khan Mr Zahaid Hussain Raja Mr Syed Shafqat Shah
Judaism	-	Mrs Jo Osborne
Sikhism	-	Mr Jaspal Singh Chahal Mr Rajinder Singh Sandhu
Baha'is	-	Dr Igan Hayati

Committee 2 - The Church of England

The Church of England	-	The Rev Andrew Allen The Rev Alan Bignell Ms Jo Fageant Mrs Christine Isles
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Committee 3 - Representatives of Teacher Associations

National Union of Teachers	-	Ms Lynda Bussley
VOICE	-	Vacant
National Association of Head Teachers	-	Mrs Maggie Stacey
Secondary Heads Association	-	Vacancy
National Association of School Masters/ Union of Women Teachers	-	Dr Helen Cairns
Association of Teachers and Lecturers	-	Vacancy

Committee 4 - Representatives of the Local Education Authority

Councillors Bains, Coad, Maclsaac, Mann and Pabbi

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SLOUGH STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

The SACRE is established in accordance with Section 11 of the Education Reform Act 1988 (as amended by Section 255 of the Education Act 1993) by Slough Borough Council acting as Local Education Authority.

Membership

1. The Members of the SACRE shall be appointed by the Authority so that they shall represent the following groups.

Committee 1 – Christian denominations and other religions (12)

The Free Churches (1)
The Black Free Churches (1)
The Roman Catholic Church (1)
Hinduism (1)
Islam (4)
Judaism (1)
Sikhism (2)
Baha'is (1)

Committee 2 – The Church of England (4)

Committee 3 – Associations representing teachers (6)

National Union of Teachers
Professional Association of Teachers
National Association of Head Teachers
Secondary Heads Association
National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers
Association of Teachers and Lecturers

Committee 4 – The Authority (5)

2. Committee 4 shall be subject to the proportionality requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
3. No Member appointed to the Cabinet shall be appointed to the SACRE.
4. The SACRE shall be appointed by the Council.

Terms of Reference

1. In accordance with Section 11 of the Education Reform Act 1988 (as amended by Section 255 of the Education Act 1993) to advise the Council on such matters connected with religious worship in schools and the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus as the authority may refer to it or as it may see fit. To advise, in particular, on methods of teaching, the choice of materials and the provision of training for teachers.

2. On application made by a Head Teacher of any Slough school after consultation with the governing body to consider whether it is appropriate for the requirement for Christian collective worship to apply in the case of that school, or in the case of any class or description of pupils at that school. The SACRE shall arrive at its decision and communicate it to the Head Teacher in accordance with the provisions of Section 12 of the Education Reform Act 1988.
3. The representative groups on the SACRE other than that representing the authority may at any time require a review of any agreed syllabus for the time being adopted by the authority.
4. The SACRE shall each year publish a report on its proceedings and those of its representative groups, the report to specify any matters on which the SACRE has given advice to the authority and the reasons for offering that advice.
5. The SACRE shall take any action assigned to it by the authority in relation to the consideration and disposal of any complaint concerning worship or religious education in compliance with Section 23 of the Education Reform Act 1988.

**STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
APPLICATION FOR A DETERMINATION ON COLLECTIVE WORSHIP**

The Head Teacher of a school seeking a determination under Section 12 of the Education Reform Act, 1988 is asked to complete this form and send it to the Clerk to the SACRE.

1. **Name and Address of School** *MONTEM PRIMARY SCHOOL.
CHALVEY GROVE
SLOUGH SL1 2TE*

2. **Age range of School** *3-11* 3. **Number on Roll** *702*

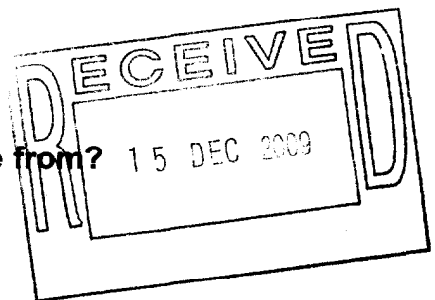
4. **Date on which the Governing Body was consulted on this application**
(Please enclose a copy of the relevant item in the Governing Body's minutes)
09.12.09

5. **Have the parents of children at the school been consulted and if so, what views did they express?**
*INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS PLUS LETTER ASKING FOR VIEWS
SENT OUT 10.11.09. A VERY LOW RETURN RATE
BUT THOSE RETURNED WERE SUPPORTIVE*

6. **How many children are withdrawn by their parents from collective worship?**
CURRENTLY - NONE

7. **Which faith background do these children come from?** *N/A*

8. **Does the application cover the whole school? Yes/No**
If no, what is the class or description of children for whom a determination is sought?



9. Information you consider relevant about the family backgrounds of the children in question.

10. What kind of collective worship are you seeking to provide for the children covered by this application?

ASSEMBLIES BASED ON MORAL, CROSS-RELIGIOUS THEMES. HIGHLIGHTING FAITHS SO THAT CHILDREN CAN LEARN ABOUT OTHER FAITHS

11. Does this represent a continuation of present practice or would it be an innovation?

CONTINUATION OF PRACTICE

12. What practical arrangements do you plan to make? (e.g. timing, location, who will organise it)

ASSEMBLY ROTA THAT INVOLVES CLASS, PHASE AND WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

13. If there are any children not covered by the application, what arrangements do you plan to make for them?

N/A

14. Is there any other information you would like the SACRE to take into account?

THE SCHOOL IS MULTI-CULTURAL AND MULTI-LINGUAL
WITH A REGULARLY CHANGING COHORT

Signed *Colin McGeachie* Date *10.12.09*

(Please return to Claire Gray, Clerk to the SACRE, Democratic & Member Services,
Town Hall, Bath Road, Slough, SL1 3UQ)

5. Committee Reports		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See minutes from committee meetings. No other feedback. 	
6. Policies Ratification		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-safety, Rarely Cover, Attendance, Collective Worship, Curriculum, Equal Opportunities Policies all discussed. IEB ratified all aforementioned policies. • Community Cohesion, Race Equality and Complaints Policy to be discussed at next T&L meeting. • Community Cohesion policy to be written in conjunction with School Council and Parents Voice. 	
7. Governing Body		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M Hodge's application for parent governor received after the deadline set. IEB agreed that this application would not be considered due to receipt after deadline. Two existing parent governor and two new parent governor applications received and accepted. Letters to all applicants to be sent out. • One teaching governor application (KH) received and accepted. • No non teaching applications received, deadline to be extended to 15/12/09. • As membership to GB not complete, election of Chair and vice chair & committee structure to be held on at next GB meeting on 13/01/10. 	Neelam/ Terri
8. AOB	<i>copy of minutes of mtg 9/12/09.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CM thanked RE and the IEB for their positive input and dedication over the last two years. • RE thanked and congratulated MPS and all the staff for their hard work, commitment to improving school standards and "turning the school round". <p>CM explained the Collective Worship SACRE Determination for Collective Worship (see headteacher's report). IEB agreed for MPS to renew their SACRE Determination application for a further five year period.</p>	
9. Future Meeting Dates		<p>New Governing Body : Wed 13th Jan 2010 Meet & Greet at 4.30 pm Meeting at 5 pm</p> <p>FPH : Wed 20th Jan 2010 at 5.30 pm</p> <p>Teaching & Learning: Wed 3rd Feb 2010 at 5 pm</p> <p>Pupil Welfare: Wed 24th Feb 2010 at 5 pm</p>	

Approved - Signed: _____ Date: _____

The rebirth of the RE Newsletter

If you have worked in Slough schools for some time you may remember the existence of a regularly published RE newsletter. You may also have noticed its disappearance. The SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education) has now decided to re-introduce this publication as one of the ways in which it supports RE in schools.

We will try to keep you informed, in this way, about local and national initiatives, news and issues in RE. We know, for example, Ofsted now looks carefully into how effectively schools promote community cohesion. It is quite likely, therefore, that this means RE will be receiving a bit more attention in the inspection process because it is an area of school life rich with community cohesion potential—remember we have had the following as an aim of the local RE syllabus for the last fifteen years: *RE should help pupils develop a positive attitude towards other people, respecting their right to hold different beliefs from their own and towards living in a society of diverse religions.*

The SACRE regularly discusses ways in which it can best support RE in schools. Members would welcome ideas from teachers. As editor of this newsletter, I should also very much welcome contributions from teachers throughout Slough. If you have discovered a particularly good resource perhaps you could write a review; if you have taken pupils to visit a place of worship or had a visitor in to speak, it would be great if you and/or your pupils could write some reflections on the experience. If you have taught a particularly successful lesson or series of lessons other teachers would love to hear about it through this newsletter. We are all aware that everyone is working hard within their own schools to provide stimulating RE. It is always nice to hear about ideas that have worked well elsewhere—sharing eases the burden of planning and thinking up new ideas. Please do get in touch with your contributions and comments. Here's how:

Tel/Fax: 01635 41014

Mobile: 07885 697447

Email: jo.fageant@oxford.anglican.org

Jo Fageant (Chair of the SACRE)

Slough Religious Studies Centre

The Centre has been relocated and can now be found at Slough Islamic Primary School, Wexham Road, Slough with parking access from Grasmere Avenue. We are open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 3.30-5.30pm and at other times by appointment.



The Centre is a free resource for all Slough LA schools and is there to help you. As part of our on-going commitment to ensuring you get the best service possible, the Centre now has a selection of new DVDs to replace some of the old video resources and there is a small selection of CD ROMs.

As always, I'm seeking information about topics you cover in school and suggestions of resources we could stock to help you with these. We already have topic boxes on Buddhism, Christianity, Chinese New Year, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism, Worship, Religious Dress. There are others on individual festivals: Christmas, Diwali, Hanukkah, Passover and Purim. Still more focus on places of worship and rights of passage. We have a wide range of artefacts including a thurible and a sukkah. I'd love to hear from you about how we can best meet your needs. Call in and see me at the RS Centre, phone on 01753 822888 or email me to sloughrecentre@waitrose.com to discuss your ideas and requirements.

We look forward to seeing you soon.



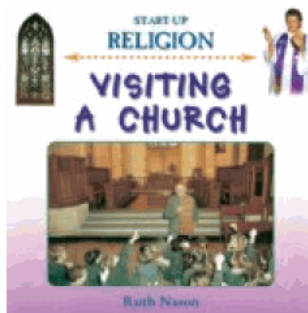
Jo Osborne (Centre Resources Officer)

Have you used the latest version of www.reonline.org.uk? This website has been redesigned and now includes some new and very useful material. For example, there is now a subject knowledge section for those people who need to know a bit more about the religions they explore in lessons. As well as the six main religions found in the RE syllabus, there are sections about the Baha'i faith, Humanism, Jainism and Zoroastrianism. A link through to <http://www.diversityanddialogue.org.uk/news> provides lots of material relevant to RE's contribution to the promotion of community cohesion. <http://pof.reonline.org.uk/christianity.php> takes you through to more information about people living out their faiths in a variety of ways. The new design allows you to find, via the 'Teachers' Resources' section, more easily than before, a wide range of resources including virtual visits to places of worship and film clips on all sorts of aspects of religious life and practice. For those who like to use films, in the REFuel section there are lots of ideas you will enjoy. If you are not sure of how to pronounce words you need to use in RE there is an audio digest of terms. In short, if you haven't looked at reonline recently, make it a priority because you could save yourself both time and money as there is so much there to support you.

Books for KS1

The Start up RELIGION series of books about visiting places of worship (includes church, gurdwara, mandir, mosque and synagogue) is an excellent resource. Those for Christianity, Islam and Judaism are also available as big books. The illustrations and accompanying labels are very clear. The books help explore features of the buildings, practices and main beliefs of the faith communities. They also recognise that there is variety in each religion's places of worship. These books would be very good to help prepare young children for a visit.

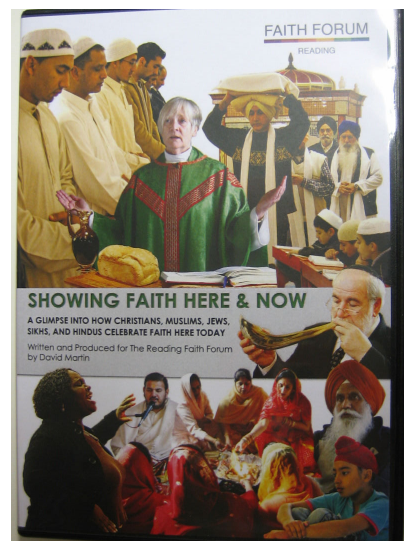
RMEP is in the process of publishing two new series of books for Key Stage 1 which are available in big and pupil sized formats. One series is entitled 'Stories to Remember'. This comprises books each of which has a collection of three stories from a faith tradition. The Christian stories book has 'An Amazing Catch of Fish', 'The Little Man in the Tree' and 'The Birthday of the Church' all presented in language appropriate for 5-7 year old pupils. Similarly the Hindu book has 'The Boy with Stars in



His Mouth' (Krishna), 'The Elephant-Headed God' (how Ganesh got an elephant's head) and 'The Monkey General' (Hanuman). The other series focuses on places of worship and takes the form of an illustrated conversation between two children about significant features of a place of worship, what goes on there and how worship is practiced in their homes. At present books on church and synagogue are available. Each book in both series costs £2.99. If you like the RMEP series 'Times to Remember' you will like these which are similar in presentation.

CD Rom Resource for KS2

Reading's Faith Forum has funded the development of a CD ROM entitled *Showing Faith Here & Now* which teachers of pupils in Key Stage 2 will find to be of value. It comprises 15 narrated five minute PowerPoint presentations providing 'a glimpse into how Christians, Muslims, Jews, Sikhs and Hindus celebrate faith today'. Four themes are addressed for a selection of religions. These are as follows: 'Seeing God through the eyes of faith' (Ch, H, I, J, S) - exploring the question: How does what people believe about God show in what they do?



'Inspiring faith through sacred writings' (Ch, H, I, J, S) - exploring the question: How are sacred writings used and shown respect within faith communities? 'Celebrating faith with other people' (Ch, I, S) - exploring the question: How, where and why do people of different faiths meet and worship? 'Keeping faith at home' (H, J) - exploring the question: How is faith celebrated, grown and shared at home?

Each of these presentations includes a summary in text form of the main points covered. In all, this resource provides 300 original photographs which could also be used with pupils in Key Stage 1. If you are interested in obtaining a copy, contact the Faith Forum on 0118 926 2372 or write to 14 Erleigh Road Reading, RG1 5LH (Cost £35, with permission to network within the school).

This Faith Forum also has a great website : <http://readingfaithforum.com/>

Resources on Humanism for all Key Stages



The British Humanist Association (BHA) argues strongly that Humanism should be included in religious education courses. The Non-statutory National Framework for RE on which the Slough syllabus is based says: 'To ensure that all pupils' voices are heard and the religious education curriculum is

broad and balanced, it is recommended that there are opportunities for all pupils to study:

- *other religious traditions (other than those required by the syllabus) such as the Baha'i faith, Jainism and Zoroastrianism*

- *secular philosophies such as humanism.*' To support schools with the inclusion of Humanism, the BHA has published some helpful books and now has resources freely available on its website:

<http://www.humanismforschools.org.uk/> These include five 'toolkits' which comprise teachers' notes, lesson plans and PowerPoint presentations: KS1—What makes us special; KS2—What do we celebrate and why? How should we treat other people and why?; KS3—How do we know it's true? How do you tell right from wrong? What's it all for? There are also discussion papers on a whole range of topics—for primary schools: Happy Human Symbol; How the earth began; The Golden Rule (Intriguingly, in exploring the Golden Rule as an important principle of human living the version selected from Christianity for comparison with those from other traditions is 'Love your neighbour as yourself' (Lk 10:27) rather than 'Treat others as you want them to treat you' (Matt 7:12) which is much closer in form to all the other examples selected.); Celebrations and ceremonies. Those for KS3 are divided into three groups: Social and moral issues eg abortion, animal welfare, drugs, suicide, world poverty; Philosophical and religious issues eg Creationism, Evil and Suffering, Does God exist?; and Humanism and human history eg What is Humanism? Humanists working for a better world.

The quality of these resources is good and schools wanting to include an organised study of Humanism will find them valuable.

Resources on Islam

Online resources about Islam (primary and secondary) can be found at www.iaw-schools.org.uk Although still under development, this resource is certainly worth exploring. It was produced as a collaboration between Islam Awareness Week, Leicester SACRE, young people and volunteers from the community. It explores issues such as: what Muslims believe, what they do and how religion influences their lives. There are also lesson plans, workshop ideas, songs and film clips.

Free Resources!

Fantastic news—two highly respected RE organisations are currently providing some excellent 'must have' free resources on the web.

Shap has two RE led cross curricular units, one for KS1 and the other for KS2. The KS1 unit is entitled *What should we eat and why?* The introduction says: 'In this unit, children are invited to consider some of the choices they make in considering what they eat. They are given opportunities to reflect upon these choices and those of others including both religious and non-religious people. They are asked to explore a range of issues including their potential responsibility for themselves, for others and for the world around them. They are enabled to acquire skills and attitudes relevant not merely to RE but also to their own personal development. The unit provides them with a context in which they can both learn about and learn from religion and other belief systems'.

By the end of the unit—Most children will use religious and other relevant words and phrases to identify some of the beliefs and practices associated with food in different religions and belief systems; begin to show awareness of similarities in religions and belief systems in relation to food; identify how religious and other beliefs are expressed through every day actions; ask and respond sensitively to questions about their own food choices and to those of other people; recognise their own values and those of other people in relation to moral choices about food.

The Key Stage 2 unit is entitled *Living Ethically—Making a Difference?* The introduction is similar to that found in the KS1 unit but the outcomes are expressed as— Most children will: Use a developing religious vocabulary to describe and show understanding of sources, practices, beliefs, ideas, feelings and experiences. They make links between them, and describe some similarities and differences both within and between religions. They describe the impact of religion on people's lives. They suggest meanings for a range of forms of religious expression, raise, and suggest answers to, questions of identity, belonging, meaning, purpose, truth, values and commitments. They apply their ideas to their own and other people's lives. They describe what inspires and influences themselves and others. **Shap** also publishes a journal each year on subjects of interest to teachers of RE and relevant to the RE syllabus. This year's journal is entitled, *Food, Faith and Community*. All the articles within this publication and Shap journals back to 1994 are available to download from www.shapworkingparty.org.uk. This is also the address at which to access the units described above.

The Stapleford Centre is currently publishing, week by week 40 top teaching tips written by Margaret Cooling. Each week's ideas remain available to download free for five weeks. Thereafter it is possible to purchase them at a cost of 99p each. So far 18 week's worth of ideas have been released. They will build into an excellent resource and RE subject leaders are encouraged to collect them for themselves from <http://www.stapleford-centre.org/resources/free-resources>

Jo Fageant and Jo Osborne are ensuring that reference copies are available at the Slough Religious Studies Centre.

Council of Christians and Jews KS3 Resources

CCJ has produced an interactive CD-ROM for pupils in KS3. It's called 'Citizenship Identity and Difference'. It 'explores different strands of religious and non-religious traditions in British society today, and stimulates discussion on the nature of identity and citizenship.' This is a nicely produced resource which is easy to use. There are five strands, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and no faith background, all accessed through encounter with a young person from these positions. CCJ says, 'the material explores what is specific to each person's tradition, while stressing that the different strands together forge a commitment to the future of British society.' Interestingly there are two Christian young people, one being described as 'nominal Church of England'.

The homepage provides images of the young people and you engage with each one by clicking on their image. There is a short film clip in which they introduce themselves and then you go into a room in their house. Taking Safiya, the Muslim girl, as an example to illustrate what the resource provides: In Safiya's room you can click on three significant features each of which takes you to some background information about the item, a story related to it and some more 'advanced' material. For Safiya, the significant items are a compass (focus on prayer), the Qur'an and an Eid card from which users learn much about Ramadan. The final aspect of the encounter with Safiya, as with all the others, is a short film clip in which she explains what it means to her to be a Muslim, an Asian and British. She also explains why she chooses to wear hijab. Along with the CD-ROM there is a pack of support material

This is a very good resource and good value at £25. CCJ has also developed a Passover pack for churches to enable Christians to learn about Pesach. While this is not specifically designed for use in schools, it may not be an entirely inappropriate resource. You can find out more about this at: http://www.ccj.org.uk/dialogCCJ_has_also_developed_a_Passover_pack_for_churches_ue%20janiary%20stage%202%20r.pdf

More resources for secondary schools

On the website dedicated to the new secondary curriculum (http://www.newsecondarycurriculum.org/content/library/re_other.aspx#) there are now four short films about good ideas that have been successfully implemented in schools. They are certainly worth a look.

Alan Brine, HMI, has written an interesting brief paper on the new Ofsted arrangements and their implications for RE in schools. This paper can be found at: http://news.reonline.org.uk/re_news.php?288

If you don't already use it www.gcsere.org.uk is worth a look. It covers most information relating to GCSE RE pretty comprehensively.

Art in Heaven Competition 2010

Once again NATRE is running its annual competition and in so doing providing another opportunity for schools to show case good RE work. This year's themes are:

Mystery Stories; Spiritual Space; Respect: a logo for RE; Celebrating Life Celebrating Love; Talking to God: Where is God?

Entries have to be in by 31 July 2010. A look at the gallery of 2009 winners might spark off some ideas: www.natre.org.uk/spiritedarts



Festivals

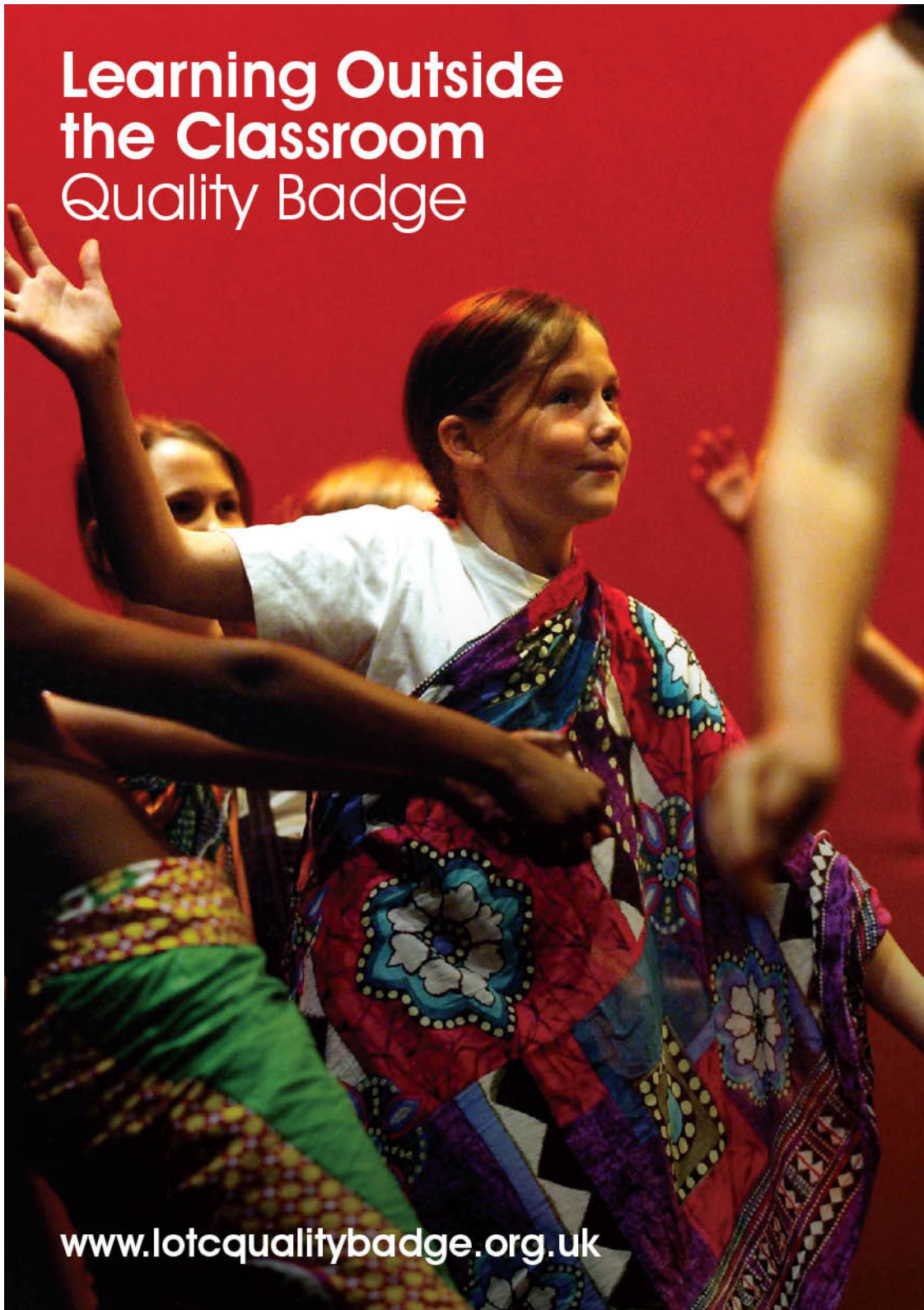
Festival dates and details can be found at the following addresses

www.reonline.org.uk/festivals.php
www.culham.info/tvr/festlist.html
www.bbc.co.uk/schools/religion/
www.holidays.net

These sites have lots of links to others with information about all the religions included and their festivals.



Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge



www.lotcqualitybadge.org.uk

If your organisation provides learning outside the classroom experiences for children and young people – from adventurous activities, field studies, expeditions and study tours abroad to learning experiences in museums, theatres, farms and places of worship – then read on to find out more about the new Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge.

What are the benefits of the Quality Badge to organisations providing learning outside the classroom experiences?

The Quality Badge will become a national benchmark for the provision of educational visits, recognising organisations that are delivering high quality teaching and learning experiences and managing risk effectively.

LO provides a framework for working in partnership with schools, youth groups and local authorities and aims to reduce red tape, making Quality Badge holders a more attractive prospect for those organising educational visits.

The Quality Badge also provides a useful developmental tool, enabling organisations to improve their practice so that they are confident of providing meaningful and inspirational experiences for young people.



Who can apply?

The Quality Badge is available to all organisations providing learning outside the classroom experiences. There are two routes to the Quality Badge – the route an organisation takes to achieve the Quality Badge will be determined by the degree of risk management required to manage the activities offered. Providers will not be able to choose the route they take.

Route 1

Route 1 is for those organisations whose activities are considered relatively low-risk, such as environmental centres, art galleries, museums, visitor attractions and places of worship.

In order to achieve the Quality Badge your organisation must be committed to providing high quality teaching and learning experiences. You will need to demonstrate that:

- Learning outside the classroom is understood and valued;
- Processes are in place to establish and maintain an effective partnership with schools and other groups of young learners;
- Structures are in place to support and enable effective learning.

Organisations which meet the above criteria can apply for a Quality Badge online at www.lotqualitybadge.org.uk and will be supported through the process by guidance and good practice exemplars. Organisations applying through Route 1 will need to complete an online Self Evaluation Form to demonstrate that they have met a set of quality indicators; a sample of organisations will receive a quality assurance visit from a Quality Badge assessor.

Route 2

Route 2 is for those organisations whose activities require a degree of technical knowledge and experience that are beyond the lay person, such as ensuring children are operating safely on a high ropes course, around livestock and farming equipment, or when entering rivers to make measurements. Residential and overseas visits are also included in Route 2, due to the unique risk management issues they present to teachers. A comprehensive list of activities which need to be assessed through Route 2 can be found on the Quality Badge website.

Providers proceeding through Route 2 must meet the same quality criteria as Route 1, but will also be assessed by the relevant awarding body, appointed by the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom, before they are awarded the badge. This is to ensure that they meet the quality indicators and have adequate safety management systems in place.

Route 2 Awarding Bodies

Organisations applying for the Badge through Route 2 will receive an assessment visit from the most appropriate awarding body, listed below:

- Access to Farms (ATF)
- Adventure Activities Industry Advisory Committee (AAIAC)
- Field Studies Council (FSC)
- School Travel Forum (STF)
- Expedition Providers Association (EPA)

The Quality Badge was developed by the Department for Children, Schools and Families. Badges are awarded by the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom.

For more information about the Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge, please visit www.lotcqualitybadge.org.uk



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