

The latest news from SACRE

Slough has recently appointed a professional adviser to its Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE). Some readers may already know Jo Fageant who has been a RE consultant in the area for some time. Jo will advise the SACRE and also serve as RE consultant for Slough schools. Her change of status means the SACRE has a new Chair in Julie Siddiqi. With Julie driving things with energy and enthusiasm the SACRE has also drawn in a number of new members. All this adds up to renewed life and commitment and the SACRE is keen to be serving Slough schools and supporting them in the continuing development of RE and collective worship.

Photo of Jo and Julie to be added here?

This newsletter highlights the opportunities open to teachers and news of what is happening in the RE community at large. The SACRE is, however, very keen to hear from schools about the support they would like and also to hear of successes that can be shared with other schools as examples of good practice. Get in touch with Jo at jo.fageant@oxford.anglican.org or on 07885 697447 if you have requests or ideas to share.

Autumn Term meeting for RE teachers

Slough RE teachers have, for a while, been attending termly meetings organised by the Windsor and Maidenhead SACRE. Whilst this is still possible, this term there will be a meeting in Slough, held at the Khalsa School (SL2 5QR) from 4.00-5.30PM on Wednesday 26th November. There will be a sharing of general RE news and a presentation about Sikhism. It is essential to let Jo Fageant know if you intend to attend.

Support with your RE planning

Struggling to plan an exciting, challenging RE scheme of work that covers all aspects of your syllabus? Look no further than the scheme of work published by the Schools Department of the Diocese of Oxford. It exemplifies the enquiry based method recommended for teaching RE in the Pan Berkshire Syllabus of 2012. It is available from the diocesan website with a purchasable password for only £200.

Coverage:

The scheme of work covers KS1 & KS2, with enough material for a unit each half term. The long term overview pages for each year group show the questions/topics/concepts that are covered by each of the 36 units and the way in which these are linked to the questions in the Slough syllabus. Topics and concepts are revisited during the six year scheme, giving pupils a chance to explore ideas in greater depth. In accordance with the national guidelines there is an emphasis on Christianity with Judaism covered in KS1 and Hinduism & Sikhism or Islam in KS2. However many of the questions can be adapted to cover other faiths as appropriate to the school setting.

Methodology:

Each unit begins with a "Big Question", created by combining elements from the syllabus and allowing children to explore "Learning About" and "Learning from Religion" in every unit. Each unit consists of an outline plan and a class record sheet containing suggestions for activities that can be used to show pupil achievement and progress. These materials are used together to plan the learning cycle using the Engage, Enquire, Evaluate & Reflect model of teaching. The materials do not have to be used in the order suggested, nor does each section have to be touched on only once, but can be revisited at any point during a unit of work. There should also be scope to leave the plans behind if the pupils' questioning and investigating opens up other interesting avenues for enquiry and in response to special events when they occur

Over the page you can see some examples of questions suitable for Y2:

- Unit 1: Who should you follow?
- Unit 2: Should you wear religious symbols?
- Unit 3: Is it important to celebrate the New Year?
- Unit 4: Is Easter important for the Church?
- Unit 5: Can stories change people?
- Unit 6: How should you spend the weekend?

Find out more at: <http://www.oxford.anglican.org/religious-education/re-scheme-work/>

Locally Focused RE

While the locally agreed syllabus covers a wide range of faith issues, there is little actual local colour in it. The team of RE advisers in the Diocese of Oxford has begun to explore the wide variety of religious life, history and change within its boundaries in order to develop a selection of RE units reflecting this local flavour. As in the scheme of work mentioned above, units begin with a big question. Here are some examples of units they have produced so far:

Does Reading need the Abbey?

Does a town need more than one church?

This unit based on Bracknell explores the differences between denominations and styles of church, encouraging children to look for things that they have in common as well as the features that make them unique.

It is hoped that more and more locally focused units will be developed. Slough is a rich resource in itself and Jo Fageant would like to work with schools and members of faith communities to develop some units that will lead to in depth understanding of the religious life of the town now and how it has changed over time.

Training Opportunities

While the SACRE waits to hear from teachers about their training needs there are already opportunities in place that teachers can access.

So you're the New(ish) RE Subject leader!

If you have recently taken on the role of RE subject leader in your primary school, this is the course for you:

A full day course with opportunities to:

- Explore what is meant by good RE including how it contributes to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- Get to grips with the ideas about standards, continuity and progression in the RE curriculum, considering examples of planning and assessment
- Discuss ways in which you can support and monitor RE in their schools
- Discuss school self-evaluation of RE
- Consider issues of resourcing in RE
- Look at how to write a school RE policy statement

By the end of the course participants will:

- Have a clear understanding of what the role of RE subject leader might entail
- Have explored strategies which will enable them to do the job effectively

Date:	20th November 2014
Venue:	Diocesan Church House North Hinksey Oxford OX2 0NB
Course Leader:	Jo Fageant
Time:	9.30am – 3.30pm
Cost:	£120 (+VAT)

The Teach RE Course

[\(http://www.teachre.co.uk/\)](http://www.teachre.co.uk/)

If you already teach RE or want to in the future and would like to develop your understanding of the subject further or perhaps refresh your thinking, this course may be just what you need. Perhaps you are considering a Master's degree and would like to ease your way back into self-study and research. Or perhaps you would like to explore new ways of applying subject knowledge about world religions and beliefs to classroom practice. You may be a new co-coordinator for RE in a primary school and want to find out more about how to lead the subject. Whatever your professional learning requirements, the Teach RE Course is tailored to your individual needs. It is suitable for primary and secondary colleagues, teachers, TAs and HLTAs, and is run as a distance learning programme. Support is provided by a tutor and a certificate of completion is provided which you can use as part of your CPD portfolio. Check out details at the Teach RE website.

Farmington Fellowships

Through the Farmington Institute teachers have an opportunity to take time out for funded research projects. These can be undertaken university or school/home based. The Fellowships are available for teachers who have been in their current post for two years and are involved with teaching RE. Fellows can choose their own area to research but preference is given to applicants whose work can be seen to be of direct value to the teaching of RE in schools. Tuition, board and lodging where appropriate, essential local travel and , by negotiation with the school, the salary of a replacement teacher up to point 6 of the main pay scale can be covered. Fellows submit a plan of their research and when their work is completed they give a presentation and produce a written report. If you are interested you need to start thinking about this NOW because the deadline for applications for the 2015/16 academic year is 26 January 2015

Further details can be found at <http://www.farmington.ac.uk/fellowships> and [awards/fellowships.html](http://www.farmington.ac.uk/awards/fellowships.html) and you can have a look at the papers produced by previous fellows at <http://www.farmington.ac.uk/documents/reports/>

The Global Learning Programme (GLP)

This is a ground-breaking new programme which will create a national network of like-minded schools, committed to equipping their students to make a positive contribution to a globalised world. The GLP helps teachers in primary, secondary and special schools to deliver effective teaching and learning about development and global issues at Key stages 2 and 3. Although not explicitly linked with religious education it is



clear that the aims set out below can be addressed through and enrich aspects of the RE curriculum.

The GLP aims to:

- help young people understand their role in a globally interdependent world and explore strategies by which they can make it more just and sustainable,
- familiarise pupils with the concepts of interdependence, development, globalisation and sustainability
- enable teachers to move pupils from a charity mentality to a social justice mentality
- stimulate critical thinking about global issues, both at a whole school and pupil level
- help schools promote greater awareness of poverty and sustainability
- enable schools to explore alternative models of development and sustainability in the classroom.

If you want to get involved register your interest at www.glp-e.org.uk

Resources from RE Today

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More than 101 Great Ideas“ is one of the latest resources from RE Today services and true to its name it in fact contains 117 different activities designed for the RE classroom. The strategies are suitable for Key Stages 1 to 4 and aim to help support spiritual and moral development.

The introduction looks at

some key questions for teachers of RE and seeks to address some of the issues around active learning in the subject. The main content of the book consists of teaching strategies presented in 7 categories such as Acting, Creating, Enquiring and Reflecting, and links these strategies clearly with some very concrete examples of how they may be employed in a classroom.

Readers of the termly RE Today publications will recognise many of the strategies and some of the examples, but this book conveniently brings these together in one volume. In addition, some PDF resources are available to download for those who purchase the book, while photocopy

permission is included for the resources. This is a useful, good value resource for busy teachers. Available from www.retoday.org.uk for around £18

Subscribers to RE Today materials now need to consider a new way to access these publications. The National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE), which has always been a partner of RE Today, has now become a membership organisation with the RE Today materials being member benefits along with much much more. The website (www.natre.org.uk) guides you through what kind of membership is most appropriate to your context. This is a rich resource of support for RE teachers and widely considered to represent value for money.

Resources from the Diocese of Oxford

Life of Jesus through the Eyes of an Artist:

Colourful pictures, Bible passages, commentaries, background notes and lesson plans are interwoven in this CD resource, available from the Diocese for £13.99. Through 22 paintings, key events from the life of Jesus are explored with questions to encourage the children to look closely at the images.



Large coloured plates can be displayed on an interactive white board or printed and laminated. The lesson plans are designed for Upper & Lower KS2, and cover levels 2 – 4. Each unit starts with a big question for the children to explore and links to concepts from the syllabuses. Each unit employs the engage, enquire & explore, evaluate, reflect & communicate model of teaching and gives the pupils an opportunity to experience both of the attainment targets in each unit. Some of the units use groups of pictures, making links between different events in Jesus life. Each picture is linked to a Bible passage (included in full) and a commentary that expands on the event and the picture. The background text gives some interpretation of the event and often places it in a historical context, explaining

some of the symbolism employed by the artist. Alongside other resources, this work provides an insight into the life of Jesus and offers a different perspective on some familiar stories.

Contact helen.mitchell@oxford.anglican.org to purchase or find out more.

Festivals

This term is a very busy with religious festivals and to make sure you have all the information you need dates and details can be found at the following addresses



<http://www.reonline.org.uk/supporting/festivals-calendar/>

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.

RE Quality Mark



Have you considered gaining a quality mark for your school's RE. Check it out at www.regm.org.uk. Even if you don't think your school is ready for this or funds are too tight to pay the fees for the award, it's worth looking at the materials as a tool with which to audit your RE provision and quality. This can help you determine your priorities and targets for the future.