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Dear SACRE members,

Please find attached a free 60-page PDF guidance and resource pack for primary schools in England and Wales on Diversity of Religion and Belief.

The pack aims to bring together relevant policy frameworks, academic research and good practice into a single document in order to provide schools with the tools to create an environment that recognises and values diversity of religion and belief, as well as deliver good quality Religious Education that promotes interfaith respect and understanding. It draws on expertise from across the sector, including from researchers, teaching professionals and educational organisations, and also provides signposts to helpful resources in the field.

I would really appreciate any help you could provide in distributing this resource to primary schools in your area. It has been designed to speak to the particular needs and circumstances of schools with more or less diverse pupil intakes, schools with or without a religious character, and schools located in urban or rural contexts. I have also attached an executive summary of the document with a URL link for schools to download the guide for themselves if they so choose, in case this kind of approach is likely to be more successful.

This initiative is part of a wider project that has so far included engagement and knowledge exchange with researchers, practitioners and educational organisations through events and email consultations, and the distribution of this guidance and resource pack to LEAs, SACRES, schools and other organisations in England and Wales. I will also be carrying out an evaluation survey of the pack in 12 months or so to explore if and how it has influenced practice in schools. I'm very happy to answer any other questions you might have about this project.

Kind regards,
Peter.

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Diversity of Religion and Belief

A guidance and resource pack for primary schools in England and Wales

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Executive Summary

Diversity of religion and belief is increasingly recognised within education as a strand of social difference deserving of attention. However, primary schools in England and Wales have not always had easy access to clear guidance on how to approach the issue. This guidance and resource pack brings together relevant policy frameworks, academic research, and good practice into a single document, also providing signposts to helpful resources in the field. It draws on expertise from across the sector, including from researchers, teaching professionals and educational organisations.

The pack provides schools with the tools to create an environment that recognises and values diversity of religion and belief, as well as deliver good quality Religious Education that promotes interfaith respect and understanding. It has been designed to speak to the particular needs and circumstances of schools with more or less diverse pupil intakes, schools with or without a religious character, and schools located in urban or rural contexts. The guidance and resource pack is free of charge and is available to download in PDF format from: <http://orca.cf.ac.uk/110147/>

The pack includes information on the following:

- *Legislative, curriculum and inspection frameworks*
- *Guidance for schools:*
 - *Developing a whole school approach*
 - *Positive inter-faith relations*
 - *Good quality Religious Education*
 - *Inclusive assemblies and collective worship*
 - *Accommodating religious needs*
 - *Religious festivals and celebrations*
 - *Parents and the wider community*
- *Curriculum resources, organisation listings, examples of displays*