

# Slough SACRE

## Winter Term 2021 RE Newsletter

As the new western calendar year starts, we want to wish you all the best with the new term's arrangements, especially with the recently imposed new lockdown.

SACRE wishes to send out a sincere thank you to all teachers and schools for the way in which you have shown and will undoubtedly continue to show dedication to children and education during these difficult times. We recognise the challenges you have faced and want you to know that we are here to support you with your RE wherever possible.

SACRE wishes RE teachers to know that support is available. One of the ways SACREs can support teachers is by running virtual RE network meetings and producing newsletters designed to inform you of some, or all of the following:

- Local and national RE developments
- Free classroom resources
- Upcoming CPD opportunities
- News from faith communities – national and local

### **Virtual Networks**

SACRE is supporting RE by running virtual RE networks as twilight sessions each term – these are run by the RE Adviser to SACRE David Rees.

This term's meetings will be virtual and held on the following dates.

- **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 4pm**
- **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March 4pm**

If you would like to attend any of these or receive information about support for RE please email David on [david@reesuk.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:david@reesuk.onmicrosoft.com) - zoom links will be sent to those who confirm

It would be really helpful if schools could let David know the RE lead's school email address so he can directly keep them updated on what support is available. This is particularly important if the person in post changes or if someone is new to teaching.

### **Upcoming events and CPD Opportunities**

Since the COVID outbreak face to face CPD opportunities have not been possible however the RE world continues to be creative in arranging virtual conferences and events. Others are in the pipeline too as we will try to make you aware of these local and national events as we hear about them.

- **Wiltshire RE conference, 31st March** - The RE-Juvinating and RE-freshing RE Conference has gone virtual! – The event will be delivered through a series of Zoom workshops and you will be able to select your sessions once your place is confirmed.

Lat Blaylock is our Keynote Speaker and he will deliver his 'Creative, Inspiring and Spiritual RE' course as well as a session on Text centred teaching. We

are thrilled to also have the following workshop leaders: Discovery RE's Alison Harris, Wiltshire SACRE RE Adviser, Katy Staples, SACRE RE Adviser David Rees, BCP SACRE Chair Lynda Ford-Horne and our own Hub Lead Practitioners and Sarah Sprague. They will be delivering workshops including 'How To – deliver RE digitally'; 'Wriggly RE in KS1 and EYFS'; and practical, inspiring workshops on using texts in Judaism, Sikhism and Christianity. Come along – as we promise you will be RE-inspired!

Book your place for 31st March event (only £50 for a great day's CPD and associated resources). Click here

<https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/learning/courses/psa-subscription-course-re-conference-wednesday-7435>

- **Holocaust Memorial Day**

Each year the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust provide high quality educational resources to help commemorate historical and modern examples of genocide – the website banner is 'Learning from genocide – for a better future'. This year's theme is 'Be the light in the darkness'.

As the website says 'Be the light in the darkness is an affirmation and a call to action for everyone marking HMD. This theme asks us to consider different kinds of 'darkness', for example, identity-based persecution, misinformation, denial of justice; and different ways of 'being the light', for example, resistance, acts of solidarity, rescue and illuminating mistruths. Please check the website for more details on educational resources and events being planned:

<https://www.hmd.org.uk/>

This year's resources can be found on <https://www.hmd.org.uk/resources/> or Primary - <https://www.hmd.org.uk/take-part-in-holocaust-memorial-day/schools/primary-schools/>

Secondary - <https://www.hmd.org.uk/take-part-in-holocaust-memorial-day/schools/secondary-schools/>

And SEND <https://www.hmd.org.uk/take-part-in-holocaust-memorial-day/schools/send-schools/>

- **Strictly RE**

Whilst we will always try to find free events to circulate to teachers, some other not free events are worth sharing like the ever-popular NATRE run **Strictly RE** conference. This will be running again on the weekend of 30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> January and renamed 'Strictly RE at Home'. This year the conference offers 4 keynote speeches and a choice of 24 seminars including sessions on a wide variety of topics across all key stages including:

- Anti-racist RE (Primary & Secondary sessions)
- Beginners Guide to Curriculum Building at Secondary (Secondary)
- Primary subject leadership (the how to guide) (Primary)
- A new Curriculum for Wales: Ideas and innovation for RE in schools everywhere (Cross phase)
- Shake, rattle and roll – make some noise! Judaism in the primary school (Primary)
- Worldviews within Islam (Cross phase)

- Virtual visits and visitors (plundering the online) (Cross phase)
- RS and Religion and Worldviews. We teach both and here's why! (Secondary)
- Teaching about Hindu worldviews at KS3 (Secondary)

Booking can be made through the NATRE website following this link  
<https://www.natre.org.uk/courses-events/strictlyRE-2021/>

### **News from RE Online**

RE Online is a free quality-controlled website designed to support teachers with many different aspects of teaching and leading RE. Recently the latest newsletter has gone out to those who have signed up. You can sign up here for free

<https://cstg.us16.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=1fb0c29ab731212a3ab5788dc&id=ac766e00fe>

RE Online are still producing newsletters every month as a way of offering greater support in the current difficult time. Sometimes being an RE leader can be an isolated experience, perhaps even more so during a lockdown, so the newsletter aims to connect people and to inspire.

As well as the newsletter there are teaching resources, knowledge pieces on all the major faiths and worldviews designed to help improve subject knowledge and ideas on how to connect with faith communities.

Recent additions include:

- a new Hinduism subject knowledge essay and some Knowledge organisers for Judaism and Humanism, these are designed to help build subject knowledge.
- The new SHAP festival calendar for 2021 has been updated and can be accessed here.  
<https://www.reonline.org.uk/festival-calendar/> The calendar also includes links to information on the relevant festivals which can hopefully help deepen knowledge.
- There are also a series of blogs written for teachers by teachers – currently there are three blog series called 'How I' 'Inspired by' and 'Telling my story'. RE Online is always looking to hear from teachers so if you would like to write a blog please check out the website  
<https://www.reonline.org.uk/>
- Voices from religion and worldviews - Over the last few years RE:Online has collated responses to questions about religion and worldviews from different perspectives. This resource provides personal answers to questions from lived experience and were written directly by believers.

### **General resources**

- Suffolk SACRE have recently produced a suite of resources on 'Controversial Issues' aimed at working with schools on the PREVENT Agenda. The Toolkit provides a bank of exemplar resources that introduces a 6-step teaching methodology for the delivery of controversial and sensitive issues in the RE classroom.

The resource won a special commendation and National Accord Award 2017. The Teaching Controversial Issues Toolkit was adopted by the UN in 2018. All schools have free access to these materials. Please follow the link below  
<https://www.suffolklearning.co.uk/leadership-staff-development/learning-teaching/religious-education/sacre/prevent>

Council of Europe (2015). Living with controversy: Teaching controversial issues through education for democratic citizenship and human rights (EDC/HRE). Training pack for teachers. Available at:  
<https://rm.coe.int/16806948b6>

- NATRE has produced some free resources to help look at Ant-Racist RE – these can be accessed by following the link below:  
<https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/anti-racist-re/>  
NATRE are also making some more free resources available to help with home schooling – In their own words - 'To help you during this difficult time, RE Today is supporting NATRE by providing ALL teachers with resources which they can use and share with parents to support with home learning, as well as resources to support socially distanced learning.' Link included below:  
[FREE teaching resources for you and your pupils \(natre.org.uk\)](https://www.natre.org.uk/free-teaching-resources-for-you-and-your-pupils/)
- In February the Muslim Learner Services will be holding a FREE two-hour live virtual Islam training session for Primary School RE leads / RE teachers who would like to develop their subject knowledge and confidence in teaching Islam to Primary pupils.  
The course title is 'Teaching & Learning about the five pillars of Islam' and it is FREE including all training materials. There is one free place per school and places are limited - for more information about the course and to register a place on the free training course please follow this link  
[https://forms.zohopublic.com/imrankotwal11/form/EventRegistration/formperma/e30ZqrGkMnCNp\\_3jCqMRdID8BZCYJFoTQr4e6RZtcfs](https://forms.zohopublic.com/imrankotwal11/form/EventRegistration/formperma/e30ZqrGkMnCNp_3jCqMRdID8BZCYJFoTQr4e6RZtcfs)
- The faith and belief forum have just published online a whole series of RE lesson plans for KS3 as part of an ambitious 2-year project.  
The resource is described as 'A suite of lesson plans with accompanying films, presentations and worksheets for KS3. Distilling 20 years of The Faith & Belief Forum's knowledge of equipping learners with tools for safe and meaningful dialogue.' Please check out the following link for more details:  
<https://faithbeliefforum.org/resources/school-ks3-lesson-plans/>
- The centre for the Study of Islam in the UK at Cardiff University have recently made some free downloadable and editable teaching resources available called Discovering Muslims in Britain: for Key Stage 3 - these teaching resources explore the 'big question': what does it mean to be a Muslim in Britain today?  
These lessons, each of which includes a PowerPoint, lesson plan, and worksheet, focus on the experiences and understanding of Muslims in Britain as a way in which to explore how religious believers live their faith in everyday British life. Although aimed at Key Stage 3 aspects of the materials could be adapted for lower Key Stages.

To access the resources, please follow the link and complete the short survey  
<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/news/view/2430314-Free-teaching-resources-for-Key-Stage-3>

### **Baha'i resources**

- Elevate, a project initiated by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the UK has lots of free video clips, quotes and images, all concerning spiritual

upliftment. 'The goal is to encourage elevated conversations, collective worship and actions in our communities and neighbourhoods which can slowly change our lives for the better.' Check out the website for details [www.elevateworld.org](http://www.elevateworld.org)

- A Baha'i discussion piece on Social Cohesion (possibly more suitable for older students) is available from the UK Baha'i Office of Public Affairs website, [www.publicaffairs.bahai.org.uk/social-cohesion](http://www.publicaffairs.bahai.org.uk/social-cohesion) - there is an animated film called 'What's happening to our sense of community' at the end of the article which is suitable for primary phase upwards. The video explores how reconnecting with our local communities through voluntary service can affect both loneliness and social cohesion.

### **Innovative RE: Case Studies**

- Worldviews in schools: Examples to inspire the future.  
This project presents 5 case studies exploring how RE is being re-imagined in schools. It is a showcase of classroom practice which goes some way towards meeting the learning proposed in the Commission on Religious Education's National Entitlement for Religion & Worldviews.  
These case studies are intended to complement debates about change in policy and practice, with evidence of existing new practices from which others can learn.  
The Case Studies are as follows:
  - Jack Hunt School - Dealing with Controversy - Islamophobia (video)
  - Bickleigh Down School - Multiple Interpretations of Lived Religion (video)
  - Holy Trinity, Pewley Down School - Whole School Religion and Worldviews, Lived Religion and Meaning-making (video)
  - Aysleford School - Encountering religion and worldviews as lived and fluid (video)
  - St Andrew's C-of-E Primary School - 'RE Trail' – A journey of discovery for children and their parents (video).

To find out more please follow the link

<https://www.gold.ac.uk/faithsunit/current-projects/reforreal/case-studies/>

SACRE hopes that this newsletter contains useful ideas to help you in the coming term. We will endeavour to send another newsletter out at the start of the April term. In the meantime, SACRE sends very best wishes to you all for your hard work and dedication.

David Rees SACRE RE Adviser

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