

Slough SACRE

Spring to Summer Term 2021 RE Newsletter

Welcome to the Spring/Summer SACRE RE newsletter. As it is now April we are safely in Spring and heading for Summer, so it is a time for optimism even though the weather will still undoubtedly keep us entertained by its unpredictability for a while yet.

As always SACRE wishes to send out a sincere thank you to all teachers and schools for the way in which you have shown such dedication to children and education during these relentlessly challenging times.

In this newsletter we will try to keep you updated on local and national updates, opportunities, resources and chances to engage.

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 these 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.

- **Thursday 6th May – 4-5.15pm**
- **Thursday 1st July – 4-15pm**

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

If you have anything you would like covered in any of the meetings please do send suggestions through to David – we want the networks to be as useful as possible.

We are always aware of the many demands on your time so thank you in advance for your attendance.

Many thanks to those schools who have already sent the name of their RE lead through to David – these people will now receive RE related information direct to their inbox. It would be really helpful if remaining 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.

Big News from the Pan Berkshire Hub

SACRE is delighted to announce that the 'Real People, Real Faith project' Key Stage 1-3 classroom resources are now available for teachers to view. The project set out to ask believers from different places of worship and religion and worldview communities questions from the Pan Berkshire syllabus – these were professionally filmed and edited with a view to being classroom resources.

There is a **special launch event (virtual) on Wednesday 28th April 2021, 4.00 - 5.30pm** where some of the clips will be shown. There will also be the opportunity to meet and discuss these in Key Stage groups – **to book a place please contact Anne Andrews at as soon as possible at anne.andrews@oxford.anglican.org**

The project was mostly filmed before the pandemic and the ensuing lockdown has meant that visits to places of worship has not been possible, making these clips even more essential than previously thought. Teacher notes were also developed to accompany each video clip.

The clips include believers from the following locations across Berkshire.

- St Michael the Archangel, Warfield
- Slough Baptist Church, Slough
- Reading Hindu Temple
- Zainabya Community of Reading,
- Maidenhead Synagogue
- Guru Maneyo Granth Gurdwara, Slough



The same six communities were interviewed at each key stage. Each film has a page of notes outlining the key questions and concepts, with a brief summary of the answers and some suggested follow-on activities. Two questions, specific to each key stage were asked across the range of venues and in most venues, several people answered each question. This allows pupils and teachers to explore some of the diversity both between and within faith communities.

The Questions asked were...

KS1:

- Why do symbols and stories play important roles in religions?
- Why do some people follow religious leaders and teachings?

KS2:

- To what extent do religious beliefs influence and encourage 'good' behaviour?
- How might beliefs and community shape a person's identity?

KS3:

- In what ways do science, belief and religion interact and what difference might this make?
- Why might it matter that sacred texts are often open to interpretation?

The Pan-Berkshire SACRE hub would like to thank everyone involved in the planning, execution, and production of these films. Thanks go particularly to the communities who gave generously of their time and venue to host the sessions.

The resources are kindly hosted on the NATRE website and can be accessed by following the link below.

<https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/real-people-real-faith/>

Feedback from virtual conferences

Since 2021 began there have been several virtual RE conferences which some of you may have attended. These include.

- Strictly RE – run by NATRE
- SW SACRE conference
- Wiltshire RE Conference – Rejuvenating and Refreshing RE

We recognise that it is often difficult for teachers to attend these so SACRE tries to be represented where possible. SACRE RE Adviser David was able to attend all of these and will feedback information and share permitted resources at the RE network meetings (see earlier).

These conferences have focussed on a wide range of issues including anti-racist RE and decolonising the curriculum.

News from RE Online

RE Online, a free quality-controlled website designed to support teachers with many different aspects of teaching and leading RE, continues to send out a monthly newsletter to those who have signed up. You can sign up here for free if interested

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

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

The **Research for RE** website has recently been transferred into the RE Online website so all the research projects are now easily available for you to explore at the following link if the desire takes you. <https://www.reonline.org.uk/research/>

RE Online has been running a series of blogs written for and by teachers for a while – recently the following new pieces have been uploaded.

- How I... attempt to avoid teaching to an exam – Clare Hawkins (Pan Berks teacher!)
- Inspired by...the meeting of the minarets and bells – Zameer Hussain
- How I ... embedded scholarship reading with a GCSE class - Scott Evans

check out the collection at

<https://www.reonline.org.uk/blog/?cfilters=%7B%22group%22%3A%22post%22%2C%22items%22%3A%5B%5D%7D>

The pieces received so far have been wide ranging and offered tips or inspiration to help teachers of all Key Stages, they are always looking to keep up a regular flow of new writers and topics so please do get in touch if you want to share something.

General resources/CPD etc

- The BBC have recently released a new series of primary clips titled “What’s on your head?”.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000scc9>

The website explains... What's on Your Head? explores the things that men and women wear on their head or face in different cultures, jobs and sports around the world. Meet some amazing people, who all wear headgear that

makes them stand out!' the series includes clips on Hijab, Bishop's Mitre, Turban and kippah

- Some excellent Sikh resources have recently been made available including:
 - a new Vaisakhi Animation (released by Discover Productions). This free resource can be shared with all RE leads and schools. Vaisakhi is a fundamental celebration within the Sikh Calendar as it marks the 'Birth of Khalsa,' a revolutionary vision by the tenth guru that gave Sikhs their uniform and identity.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lGu5H5dTupk>
 - Some free downloadable pdfs explaining key Sikhi information on Sikhi Basics and Vaisakhi among others – please check this link to view and download <https://sharecharityuk.com/forschools/>
- **On Saturday 8th May**, TeachMeet Religious Studies Icons are running their fourth event. This will be a chance to listen to input from classroom teachers, researchers and lecturers on a range of topics from the curriculum to subject knowledge. Tickets and recordings are free - <https://www.teachmeeticons.com/re>
- The Westminster Abbey website has some free downloadable resources for all key stages. These resources include PowerPoints, pdf and video clips and cover topics including Creation, Prayer and Worship, pilgrimage, Christian Festivals, Holy Week and Easter, the resurrection and remembrance. These resources can be accessed via the link below.
<https://www.westminster-abbey.org/learning/teaching-resources/catalogue>
- Free downloadable Humanist resources for Teachers, including lesson plans, classroom activities, presentations, videos, and humanist perspectives on a range of topics discussed in school are available at the **Understanding Humanism** website. Teachers can also find guidance and information about CPD opportunities. <https://humanism.org.uk/education/teachers/>
- The 'Generation to Generation' website alerted us to some resources which are available for schools – the resources centre on information, artefacts and testimonies concerning Holocaust education. In their own words:

'G2G helps the children and grandchildren of Holocaust survivors tell their family stories. We support them every step of the way so that their presentations to schools and community organisations are of high quality, historically accurate and have lasting impact. By telling the stories of their parents, grandparents and close relatives, using their testimonies wherever possible, our speakers capture the attention and empathy of their audiences – young and old. In this way, we promote and inspire tolerance and understanding in society.'

The resources are freely available here

<https://www.generation2generation.org.uk/resources/for-organisations/resources-for-schools/>

SACRE hopes that this newsletter contains useful ideas to help you in the coming term. We will send another newsletter out at the start of the Autumn term but no-one wants to think about that at the moment. In the meantime, SACRE sends very best wishes to you as always for all your hard work and dedication.

David Rees, Slough SACRE RE Adviser

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