

Slough SACRE

Autumn Term 2021 RE Newsletter

Welcome to the new SACRE RE newsletter. We hope you all had a good summer and managed to get some rest away from screens for a while!

As the new school year starts, we want to wish you all the best for the new term hoping that this year will be less disrupted by pandemics and lockdowns and that you can continue with the face to face teaching that we all prefer.

SACRE wishes to send out a sincere thank you to all teachers and schools for the way in which you have continued to show dedication to children and education during many months of unprecedented events. We recognise the challenges you have faced and want you to know that we are here to support wherever possible.

We are aware that a new school year sometimes also means a new RE co-ordinator – at SACRE we are keen to make contact to all the RE leaders in schools so kindly ask if you could let the SACRE adviser for RE David Rees know the name and school email for the email lead, even if there is no change it is useful for us to know the RE leaders so we can keep our records up to date – it will also enable SACRE to send information about free RE network meetings directly to RE leaders as well as being able to offer support should it be required. Please send the details to the SACRE Adviser for RE, David Rees, - david@reesuk.onmicrosoft.com

We are very grateful to those schools who have already done this and look forward to seeing their RE leads at the next RE network meeting

SACRE wishes RE teachers to know that support is available in many forms. One of the ways SACREs can support teachers is by running virtual RE network meetings and producing newsletters designed to inform RE teachers and leaders 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. If you would like to attend any of these or receive information about support for RE please email David on david@reesuk.onmicrosoft.com.

The first network meeting will be on Thursday November 4th and will be held virtually. If you would like to attend please email David to book a place

Pan Berkshire Hub update (Free video clips– a reminder)

The Pan Berkshire Hub (a group consisting of members of 6 Berkshire SACRES) continues to meet and work together to help provide support and resources to help Berkshire teachers. Last year the Hub produced some excellent free teaching resources in the form of video clips and support notes. The '**Real People, Real Faith project**' Key Stage 1-3 classroom resources have been available for teachers to use since April. The project set out to ask believers from different places of worship and religion and worldview communities questions about their faith and how it impacts on daily life – these were professionally filmed and edited with the classroom in mind. Teacher notes were also developed to accompany each video clip.

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. Many of the clips will help schools address some of the big questions suggested in the locally agreed syllabus.

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/>

Please use these to help your teaching and feel free to feedback comments or suggestions to David. If any of you have developed teaching activities to link these further to the agreed syllabus questions then we would love to hear from you.

Free Online Support

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>

During the pandemic RE Online produced a newsletter every month as a way of offering greater support during that difficult time.

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. There is also a large section on research and how it connects with the classroom. There are also a series of blogs written for teachers by teachers – these blogs are designed to inspire teachers to try new things.

All of this information can be found here

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

A key part of RE Online is the link to the SHAP festivals calendar

<https://www.reonline.org.uk/festival-calendar/>

The calendar includes festivals from a wide range of religions and worldviews. It includes background information to the festivals and often links to other resources which would help in the classroom.

In the next few weeks, the following festivals are celebrated so please check the calendar if you are planning to teach about them – everything included is free

- Yom Kippur – Sept 16th
- Sukkot – September 21st
- Autumn equinox – September 22nd
- Harvest festival – September 27th
- Simchat Torah – September 29th
- Navaratri – October 6th
- Anniversary of the birth of the Bab – October 6th
- Anniversary of the birth of Baha'u'llah – October 7th
- Durga Puja – October 11th
- Prophet Muhammad's birthday – October 19th or 24th
- Divali – November 4th
- Birthday of Guru Nanak – November 19th

Upcoming events

Interfaith week

Interfaith week is celebrated each year in November. This year the week runs from 14-21 November 2021– information can be found here <https://www.interfaithweek.org/>

The aims of interfaith week are to

- Strengthen good inter faith relations at all levels

- Increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, in particular celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society
- Increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs

The website gives information, resources and suggested activities.

Inter faith Network

'The Inter Faith Network for the UK works to promote understanding, cooperation and good relations between organisations and persons of different faiths in the UK.'

Information on how to get involved can be found at their website

– <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/>

Holocaust Memorial Day 2022

Holocaust Memorial Day is commemorated on January 27th every year. It remembers in particular the Holocaust during the second world war as well as highlighting more recent genocides. The purpose is always to educate, to inform, to encourage people to unite together in remembering the events and dedicating towards preventing further atrocities. Each year there is a theme. The theme for HMD 2022 is **One Day**, new resources were recently released and can be accessed for free from the following link <https://www.hmd.org.uk/resources/>

The website has a range of assemblies, lesson plans and activities to help students learn about the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur, as well as contemporary issues. The resources aim to help students to: learn more, develop and feel empathy and be inspired to take action.

CPD – advanced notice

Strictly RE - save the date! 29 & 30 January 2022

After an extremely successful virtual conference last January – according to NATRE

'Strictly RE is back! NATRE will be hosting its national annual conference online for your convenience and peace of mind while still giving you everything you love about Strictly RE without having to leave your home.

More details will be released on the NATRE website later this term. There is a cost to attending.

Pan Berkshire Teachers conference

The last Pan Berkshire RE Teachers was due to run in July but was postponed due to the pandemic guidelines. We sincerely hope to be able to run some CPD including a conference this year if the situation levels out. More details will be revealed as they become available.

Opportunities

The Culham St Gabriel Trust will be running some more sessions in their popular 'In Conversation' events – all can be accessed here

<https://www.cstg.org.uk/activities/events/in-conversation/>

Autumn 2021 events lined up include

- **Wednesday 29th September 4.15-5.15pm: Public Perception, Religion and Worldviews, Dr Sarah Harvey and Dr Kathryn Wright**
This session will share newly published research (due September 2021) and other recent findings about how the general public including the media, parents and employees perceive the value and importance of an education in religion and worldviews. There will be plenty of time to ask questions and consider future research opportunities together.
- **Wednesday 3rd November 7-8pm: Religion, worldviews and the media, Ruth Peacock**

This session will share some insights from the work of the Religion Media Centre including the ways in which religion and worldviews are presented in the media. The Religion Media Centre is an independent, impartial organisation seeking to help the media be better informed and have greater understanding of religion and worldviews in the UK. We will also hear more about their 'Five Cities' Project. As the journalists will be the ones being interviewed, come ready with your questions!!!

Ruth Peacock is director of the Religion Media Centre and oversees its work.

- **Wednesday 17th November 7-8pm: Religion and Belief Literacy- reconnecting a chain of learning, Professor Adam Dinham**

This session will share some of the thinking behind Adam's book of the same title. The book presents a crisis of religion and belief literacy to which education at every level is challenged to respond. Adam proposed a clear pathway for engaging well with religion and belief diversity in public and shared settings.

- **Wednesday 1st December 4.15-5.15pm Religion and Belief in the UK Workplace, Tamanda Walker**

This session will share some insights from research being undertaken by Tamanda Walker about religion and belief in the UK workplace. Her doctoral studies have grown out of her practice within Equity, Diversity and Inclusion initiatives

Tamanda is a consultant, researcher and facilitator working internationally to help individuals and organisations work through issues of identity and inclusion sensitively and effectively within education, employment, policy and community settings.

You can also find recordings of previous seminars at

<https://www.reonline.org.uk/research/in-conversation/>

Social Media

There are several RE based groups on different Social Media platforms – these include Facebook

- Respect: The subject community for RE professionals – formerly known as Save RE – a group for RE professionals
- RE in the South Central – linked to NATREs regional ambassadors

Twitter

- #REChatUK twitter forum - Occurs the first Monday of every month in term time. The next one is 4 October 2021: What do we mean by substantive and disciplinary knowledge in RE?

David Rees

RE Adviser to SACRE

September 2021