

Slough SACRE

Autumn

Autumn Term 2022 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!

We are aware that a new school year sometimes also means a new RE co-ordinator – at SACRE we are keen to make contact with 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 RE 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 engaging with their RE leads during the year

SACRE was pleased to be able to send a book around to all RE leaders last year and is always looking for opportunities to support schools by finding RE resources for classroom use. With this in mind SACRE is keen to know if there are specific artefacts that are needed for teaching RE. We all know how important it is to use artefacts and how these can engage curiosity in children. Please let David know if there are any specific artefacts which are needed for RE teaching and SACRE will try to find providers from within the faith communities.

SACRE is aware that there is some amazing RE work happening in the area and would love to hear some success stories whether it is a drop-down day, specific module of work, REQM award or other RE event. If anyone would like to share these with David, he will pass them on to SACRE. If anyone would like to come and talk to SACRE about their RE then please contact David.

LOCAL NEWS

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 primary RE network meeting will be on **Tuesday October 4th** and will be held virtually. If you would like to attend, please email David to book a place

Network dates for the Autumn term

- Tuesday 4th October 4-5pm
- Tuesday 15th November 2022 4-5pm

Pan Berkshire Hub update (Free video clips– new ones added)

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. 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 2021. 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.

The Questions asked were

Question 1 - What Symbols are important to you?

Question 2 - What stories are important to you?

The first batch of video clips were from the following worldviews

- Church of England
- Baptist
- Hinduism
- Sikhism
- Islam – Shi'a
- Judaism - reform

New clips have recently been released (June 2022) including

- Islam - Sunni
- Roman Catholic
- Judaism - Orthodox

A clip featuring Humanism is currently in the editing process and other representation from other religions and worldviews are being actively explored

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. 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/>

They can also be found on the Pan Berkshire blog page -

<https://berkshiresacrehub.blogspot.com/>

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.

Crossing the bridges

Crossing the Bridges was a Pan Berkshire SACRE project undertaken several years ago designed to help schools connect with local religion and worldview communities. Part of the process included creating a database of contacts for as many local places of worship as possible. Some templates were also designed to help schools plan and experience visits to places of worship. The database of contacts needs to be updated and hopefully this will begin in earnest this year. The school visit templates are still available and should help make a visit more educational and rewarding.

These templates are available in several locations including the pan Berkshire blog page

<https://berkshiresacrehub.blogspot.com/>

and the Discovery RE website

<https://discoveryschemeofwork.com/crossing-the-bridges/>

RE Teachers conference

The Pan Berkshire SACREs have run RE teacher conferences in the past but these stopped during the pandemic -it is hoped that a conference may be run in this academic year for RE Teachers – please let the RE Adviser know if this would be of interest and also if there are specific areas that you would like to see covered.

Discovery RE

Discovery RE is medium term RE programme for Key Stages 1&2 which has enquiry-based units covering up to eight different religions and worldviews. It also has a supportive website and community area which has resource ideas, knowledge organisers and background information for teachers. Discovery RE also has a dedicated team of RE mentors all of whom are or were RE teachers.

Further details can be found here- <https://discoveryschemeofwork.com/>

This year Discovery RE will be expanded to become a bigger short-term scheme for RE

Collective Worship

Collective Worship is an area which schools often seek support for. SACRE is aware that it was difficult for schools to provide this when the pandemic hit and, in the aftermath, it is possible that it may have dropped off the radar a bit. SACRE is working on ways to offer support and suggestions.

SACRE welcomes the opportunity to hear from schools about their Collective worship provision so please do contact the RE adviser if you would like to share any good practice.

REQM

The RE Quality Mark (REQM) is a great way to celebrate RE in your school – and to demonstrate how RE can take a lead in overall school improvement. The Quality Mark can be used in any sector, phase or setting, and it is now in its tenth year of accrediting schools across England and Wales and is managed by the RE Council of England and Wales.

There are four strands to the award and the criteria cover Curriculum, Teaching, Learning and Leadership at Bronze, Silver or Gold levels. Schools are the leaders in the award process, downloading evidence forms for completion as part of their school improvement plan, and applying online for the award when they are ready for a virtual visit from an experienced assessor.

Pupil and student voices play an important role in the evidence gathering, and the REQM team have supplied questionnaires to use with different groups.

If you look at the cost (£475) as a fee for the CPD that your school can benefit from during the process, schools say it is good value. The fee has to be paid before your award visit, but all the materials are freely available on the website.

CStG RE Online Resource of the month recently concerned the REQM award – in the resource 2 strands are explored - RE Quality Mark – Teaching and Learning Strands

- <https://www.reonline.org.uk/leadership/resource-of-the-month/> - the resources has 2 PowerPoints which can be downloaded

The REQM recently celebrated its 10-year anniversary and has seen an upsurge in numbers of schools applying. It provides an excellent auditing tool for schools and even though costs to apply will raise the status of RE in a school and offer the opportunity to showcase some of the excellent work being done in RE.

RE Online recently included a blog by Matthew Lane about his experiences in going through the REQM process for the gold award – his blog can be accessed here

<https://www.reonline.org.uk/2022/07/05/gold-award-primary/>

Free Online Support and upcoming events

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

RE Online is a free quality-controlled website designed to support teachers with many different aspects of teaching and leading RE

Recently RE Online has produced some free short, self-study courses – these courses are designed to help develop the RE teacher/leader whilst allowing them to work at their own pace and with the time they have at their disposal. These are designed for teachers in all phases and all school types and offer a wide range of support and inspiration for the classroom.

<https://courses.cstg.org.uk/>

The courses are divided into 3 sections – each section takes roughly 60-90 mins and can be paused and returned to

- **Introduction to Religion and Worldviews** - This course provides an introduction to what is happening in Religious Education right now, covering the most recent report into the subject and the thinking behind a new approach to teaching and learning in the subject.
- **Introduction to Curriculum** - This is a basic introduction to the purpose of the curriculum, the role of knowledge in the curriculum, progression and subject specialism in Religion and Worldviews.
- **Introduction to research** - This course is aimed at teachers as a general introduction to educational research and its purpose for both the classroom and wider understanding.

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

- Autumn equinox – September 22nd
- Harvest festival – September 25th
- Rosh Hashanah – September 26th
- Navaratri – September 27th
- Durga Puja – October 4th
- Yom Kippur - October 5th
- Prophet Muhammad's birthday – October 8th (Sunni) or 13th (Shi'a)
- Sukkot – October 10th
- Simchat Torah – October 18th

- Divali – October 24th
- Anniversary of the birth of the Bab – October 26th
- Anniversary of the birth of Baha'u'llah – October 27th
- Birthday of Guru Nanak – November 8th
- Hanukah – December 19th

The calendar can be accessed via this link
<https://www.reonline.org.uk/festival-calendar/>

Humanists UK - <https://humanists.uk/education/>

The Humanists UK website has an excellent education section - For free, downloadable teaching resources, including lesson plans, classroom activities, presentations, videos, and humanist perspectives on a range of topics studied in school, visit the website Understanding Humanism.

<https://understandinghumanism.org.uk/>

Teachers can also find guidance and information about CPD opportunities including free online courses.

Holocaust Memorial Day 2023

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT) encourages remembrance in a world scarred by genocide. They promote and support Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) – the international day on **27 January** to remember the victims of genocide past and present recognising that genocide must still be resisted every day. In the UK, prejudice and the language of hatred must be challenged by us all.

HMD is for everyone. Each year across the UK, thousands of people come together to learn more about the past and take action to create a safer future. We know they learn more, empathise more and do more.

Ordinary People is the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2023.

Genocide is facilitated by ordinary people. Ordinary people turn a blind eye, believe propaganda, join murderous regimes. And those who are persecuted, oppressed and murdered in genocide aren't persecuted because of crimes they've committed – they are persecuted simply because they are ordinary people who belong to a particular group (e.g., Roma, Jewish community, Tutsi).

Please check the website for information on classroom resources and regional activities
<https://www.hmd.org.uk/>

Ordinary people were involved in all aspects of the Holocaust, Nazi persecution of other groups, and in the genocides that took place in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. Ordinary people were perpetrators, bystanders, rescuers, witnesses – and ordinary people were victims.

Anti-Bullying week

Anti-Bullying Week 2022 will take place from *Monday 14th - Friday 18th November* with the theme 'Reach Out'. The theme of Reach Out came about following consultation with teachers and pupils. Teachers and children wanted a theme that empowered them to do something positive to counter the harm and hurt that bullying causes. RE as a subject includes many opportunities to explore equality and challenge discrimination in any form.

The anti-bullying alliance website has lots of information and downloadable resources which could be useful in schools including a '50 ideas for schools' document – these can all be found here <https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/>

Interfaith week 2022

Inter Faith Week takes place this year from *Sunday 13th to Sunday 20th November*. It aims to strengthen good interfaith relations, increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities, and increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs. Central to these aims is celebrating and building on the contribution which members of different faith and non-faith communities make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society. Each year thousands take part directly in Inter Faith Week activities, and millions encounter the week's positive messages through social media.

The website has information about the history of Interfaith week as well as resources and activities

<https://www.interfaithweek.org/resources/ideas>

Resources/CPD/events

- The **BBC teach** website has free teacher classroom resources suitable for use in religious studies lessons with primary school children at
Key Stage 1 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ks1-religious-studies/zmtvwtw>
Key Stage 2 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ks2-religious-studies/z6pbqp3>
Key Stage 3 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ks3-religious-studies/z72qf4j>
Key Stage 4 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/gcse-national-5-religious-studies/zhptri6>
These cover a wide variety of religions, worldviews and ethics
- The **North-East Religious Learning Resources Centre's** YouTube channel has a variety of interesting films that might improve subject knowledge or be of help in the classroom. Look at the tour around an Orthodox synagogue. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DW52sJ_5DMA
- **CDEC and Cumbria SACRE** have produced a collection of virtual tours of religious and spiritual sites to help RE teachers and students discover more about faith. The places included range from those in Cumbria, to fantastic examples further afield. There are also ideas for helping pupils search for and explore other sites too.
<https://www.cdec.org.uk/use-our-resources/films-and-virtual-tours/virtual-tours/>
- **Sikh SKE** - If you feel you have the potential to be an excellent secondary specialist teacher but that you don't have the right degree to teach a certain subject, the SKE programmes at the University of East London are designed to give you the depth of knowledge you'll need to teach your chosen subject. The flexible programmes last up to 24 weeks and are aimed at those who have already been offered a conditional place on a postgraduate initial teacher training (ITT) course, subject to completion of an SKE programme. As a minimum, the SKE programmes are the equivalent of eight weeks' full-time study. Some are longer depending on whether you need to top up your subject knowledge or need something more in-depth.

<https://www.uel.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/teacher-training/subject-knowledge-enhancement-programmes>

Social Media

As you might imagine there are many RE based groups on different Social Media platforms – these include...

Facebook

- Respect: The subject community for RE professionals
- Primary RE – for everyone teaching Re in primary – NATRE
- Special RE NATRE group – for educators in Special Education
- RE in the South West- Facebook
- RE Teachers forum - Facebook
- RE Teachers in South Central – Facebook– linked to NATREs regional ambassadors

Twitter

- @RE:Online – RE Online updates and info from Culham St Gabriel's' Trust
- #REChatUK twitter forum – this occurs the first Monday of every month in term time.
- TeamRE - @TeamRE
- Learn Teach Lead RE - @ltlre
- REC – Religious Education Council - @RECouncil

The next newsletter should be out at the start of the next term in January – SACRE wishes you all a successful and enjoyable term.

David Rees
RE Adviser to SACRE