

# West Berkshire SACRE

## Winter Term 2022 RE Newsletter

As the new western calendar year starts, we want to wish you all the best with the new term. Whilst we are all sadly used to living with the Covid-19 situation we are well aware that schools will face massive challenges and require support.

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 we are planning a mega network joining with other areas to showcase a new resource for KS2&3 entitled 'Faith in the Town'**

A flyer has also been sent to schools – here is a flavour of what the network will include 'Find out about teaching resources bringing together history and RE, focusing on Christian faith in the Industrial Revolution.

There is growing interest in the potential of disciplinary studies in RE, such as history, theology or philosophy. This can be understood as looking through different lenses, such as a historical lens, to gain a rich understanding of the subject matter.

Ever wondered what History would actually look like in RE? How could it support understanding of religion and belief? RE Adviser Kate Christopher has created practical teaching resources (KS2- 3) using current historical research into Christian faith during the Industrial Revolution . Find out how pupils in RE can think like historians and explore faith, meaning and hope as life changed forever in the Industrial Revolution.

The teaching resources contain instructions for teachers, practical, classroom-ready resources for pupils and supportive notes where necessary for teachers' enhanced understanding of this period. This is the first example of historical thinking in RE, come along and see what you think.'

This meeting will be virtual and held on the following date.

- **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January at 4pm**

If you would like to attend 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.

SACRE would like to thank all the schools who have sent their RE leaders' details and email addresses to David - It would be really helpful if any schools who have changed RE leader could let David know

the RE lead's school email address so he can directly keep them updated on what support is available.

### **Do you teach RE in KS3 or above? New! Free RE Forum launching in 2022**

Steph Rann at The Gryphon School, Dorset is working with other Secondary Hub Lead Practitioners to set up an RE Forum for those teaching KS3-KS5.

All are welcome. Please email Steph at [Stephanie.Rann@gryphon.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:Stephanie.Rann@gryphon.dorset.sch.uk) to sign up. She will send you details of dates (**the first is Tuesday February 15th**) and how to join the virtual meetings.

### **Berkshire Hub**

A reminder that the SACRE website for the Berkshire hub was set up last year– the idea is for this to be a site holding certain resources for teachers including the 'Crossing the Bridges' database of places of worship. The Pan Berkshire funded video clips '**Real People, Real Faith**' are also housed here as a link to 'you tube', please click the link below to see what is currently on the website

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

**Real People, Real Faith** – This was a series of interviews filmed in locations across Berkshire, featuring local faith communities answering questions about their faith. Two questions, specific to each key stage were asked across the range of venues and in most venues, several people answered each question. This allowed pupils and teachers to explore some of the diversity both between and within faith communities. 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.

The video clips are also housed on the NATRE website

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

Further interviews with other religion and worldview communities have been recorded, hopefully these will be made available soon. There are also plans for more interviews to be filmed this year.

### **Agreed syllabus review**

As you will know from previous newsletters we are approaching the time when we will need to start the review process for the agreed syllabus – it is vital that we have feedback from RE leads and schools about the existing syllabus and what support you would like in future.

A short survey has been created to help give you a platform to share your thoughts – SACRE urges you to fill this in as soon as possible – the deadline is **February half term** – the survey can be accessed here <https://forms.office.com/r/YNQUzRLNCT>

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

Face to face CPD opportunities were not possible during the COVID 19 outbreak however the RE world arranged virtual conferences and events, these successfully ensured that people could still connect and learn about the latest developments. Some face -to-face events may well be attempted in the upcoming months but virtual cpd is still likely to be popular especially as it cuts down on needless travelling around the road networks. Here are a few events which will be happening in the next term, others are in the pipeline too and we will try to make you aware of these local and national events as we hear about them.

- **CREative and REinspiring Annual RE Conference - Thursday 31st March** (9.30am -3.30pm)  
This event will be delivered through Zoom.  
Adam Robertson from RE Today is the Keynote Speaker and he will be speaking on "[Beyond the binaries: beauty, breadth and depth in Islamic and non-religious worldviews](#)".  
There will also be inspiring sessions led by Zameer Hussain on "[Diversity within Islam](#)"

and Luke Donnellan on “[Humanism as a non-religious Worldview](#)”

There will also be a choice of three workshops in the morning and three more in the afternoon to inspire your teaching! These include:

- Humanism KS2-3
- Primary Islam EYFS-KS2
- Secondary Islam KS3-5
- Designing the Jigsaw of RE Learning by **Discovery RE**
- Non-religious Worldviews – Thinking about Ethics in RE
- Motivating Learning in RE

Come along – as we promise you will be RE-inspired!

The conference is free for Salisbury diocese PSA schools, there is a small charge for other schools from other areas, all are welcome.

Click here <https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/learning/courses/psa-subscription-course-creative-and-reinspiring-7640> to book your place

Zoom links for the conference will be sent once a booking is confirmed. The link for each workshop will be sent out in the week running up to the conference, so delegates can choose which sessions to attend on the day. All workshops will be recorded, so delegates can attend two on the day and watch the others afterwards.

- **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 says ‘Holocaust Memorial Day is One Day – **27<sup>th</sup> January** – that we put aside to come together to remember, to learn about the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and the genocides that followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur, in the hope that there may be One Day in the future with no genocide. We learn more about the past, we empathise with others today, and we take action for a better future’

The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) 2022 is **One Day**. There are many ways to interpret the theme, some of which are outlined here. <https://www.hmd.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/HMD-2022-Theme-Vision.pdf>

The main website can be accessed here <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 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> January and still named ‘Strictly RE at Home’. This year the conference offers 3 keynote speeches and will have a strong focus on:

- Worldviews
- Dharmic traditions
- Ways of knowing

There will also be a range of seminars on a wide variety of topics and across all key stages including:

- Better Writing in RE (Primary)
- Dealing with controversial issues in RE (Cross-phase)
- Juggling depth, breadth, worldviews, challenge and essentialism in a KS3 curriculum (Secondary)
- Hindu Concepts of the Divine (Secondary)
- Multi-arts and sacred texts: making a difference through researching your teaching (Cross-phase)
- How to be a champion for RE in your school and beyond (Cross-phase)
- Diversity within the Buddhist worldview (Secondary)
- Food and Faith: Teaching about food as an expression of faith, belief and identity (Secondary)
- Children making progress in 4-7 RE (Primary)
- Worldviews within Islam - the Primary edition (Primary)
- Authentic Sikh RE (Secondary)
- How can we improve student writing in RE? (Secondary)

Booking can be made through the NATRE website following this link

<https://www.natre.org.uk/courses-events/strictlyRE-2022/>

- **Farmington scholarships** - Applications for the 2022/23 Farmington Scholarships are now open. These are Scholarships available to teachers of religious education and associated subjects in UK secondary, primary, and special needs schools. Head teachers who wish to undertake research into either religious education or values education are also eligible to apply.

### **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. They produce newsletters every month as well as creating teaching resources and knowledge pieces on all the major faiths and worldviews, these are designed to help improve subject knowledge. <https://www.reonline.org.uk/>

The popular series of 'In Conversation' interviews is continuing this year – this term the following are scheduled

- Wednesday 26th January 7-8pm In conversation with... Assistant Professor Tim Hutchings and Dr Jasjit Singh titled 'How is religion changing in a digital age?'
- Wednesday 9th February 4.15-5.15pm In Conversation with...Dr Ana Souto titled 'Mapping Sacredness'
- Wednesday 9th March 4.15-5.15pm In Conversation with... Justine Ball titled 'An approach to decolonising teaching about Jesus in primary schools'
- Wednesday 23rd March 4.15-5.15pm In Conversation with...The Jewish Museum London Team titled 'Teaching Inclusive Judaism'

To book on any of these follow this link <https://www.cstg.org.uk/activities/events/in-conversation/> and click the Eventbrite link

RE Online also houses the SHAP festivals calendar - Here are a selection of the festivals due to take place from the principal religions and worldviews this term

- 16<sup>th</sup> January - World religion Day – Baha'i
- 17<sup>th</sup> January – Tu B'shevat - Jewish New Year for Trees
- 14<sup>th</sup> February – Parinirvana – Buddhism (Mahayana)
- 1<sup>st</sup> March – Shrove Tuesday – Christianity
- 1<sup>st</sup> March – Lailat-ul-Miraj – Islam

- 1<sup>st</sup> March – Mahashivrati - Hindusim
- 2<sup>nd</sup> March – Ash Wednesday (Lent) – Christianity
- 17<sup>th</sup> March – Purim - Judaism
- 17<sup>th</sup> March – Holi – Hinduism
- 18<sup>th</sup> March – Hola Mohalla – Sikhi
- 20<sup>th</sup> March – Spring/Vernal Equinox – Pagan
- 21<sup>st</sup> March – Naw-Ruz – Baha’i
- 2<sup>nd</sup> April – Ramadan starts - Islam

Information on each of these can be found by following this link

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

### New resources

- **Visit my Mosque: RE Teachers Resources**

This new resource is intended to support and empower Religious Education (RE) Teachers in organising and delivering school visits to places of worship such as mosques.

“Virtual” mosque tours have also been included to increase familiarity and confidence when organising in-person visits as well as offer an alternative to those without a Mosque nearby

The resource includes video clips, 360-degree tours and activity sheets

Visit my Mosque - <https://www.visitmymosque.org/for-re-teachers/>

- **BBC programmes** – Being Christian, Hindu, Muslim, Jewish, Sikh – These 40-minute programmes are available for the next two months by following the link below <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p096g86x/episodes/player>
- The **RE:QUEST** website has been relaunched. The website states that it is ‘A space for resources to help RE teachers and their students explore the Christian faith’ This resource for RE teachers offers Christianity resources from KS1-KS3, it is free to access and the new site gives the ability to save resources to boards to organise work. <https://request.org.uk/>

### Social Media

- #REChatUK twitter forum – this occurs the first Monday of every month in term time.
- NATRE Facebook page
- RE Teachers in South Central – Facebook
- RE in the South West- Facebook
- RE Teachers forum - Facebook

I hope that the term goes well for you all. Please do keep in touch and let us know how your RE is going. If you would like to be involved in helping connect with other RE leaders then please let me know on the email supplied earlier. I hope I will see some of you at the network on January 27<sup>th</sup> – Dr Kate Christopher is an inspirational person and speaker and it is a real treat to have her come to our network.

I hope you all stay safe and healthy and thank you for all your hard work

David Rees SACRE RE Adviser

January 2022