

West Berkshire SACRE Newsletter – Autumn Term 2023

Welcome to the new academic year and to the latest SACRE RE newsletter. We hope you all had a good summer, despite the weather, 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 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 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 RE developments and opportunities directly to RE leaders as well as being able to offer support should it be required. We do still have quite a few gaps in our database and so are aware that some information about networks, newsletters and resources is not directly reaching the RE lead – it would be so helpful if you could let us know this term. During this term SACRE members will be attempting to make contact with RE leads, just to offer support, hopefully you will hear from them soon.

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 upcoming events which will hopefully be arranged this year.

One of the ways SACREs can support schools is by producing newsletters, like this, 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

SACRE is also pleased to provide primary RE support in the shape of free RE networks run by the SACRE RE adviser – dates have been fixed for this term

- Tuesday 3rd October 4-5pm
- Tuesday 28th November 4-5pm

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.

Local news

The Pan Berkshire Hub

- The Pan Berkshire Hub (a group consisting of members of 6 Berkshire SACREs (namely Bracknell Forest, RB Windsor and Maidenhead, Reading, Slough, West Berkshire and Wokingham) continues to meet under the excellent leadership of Anne Andrews and work together to help provide support and resources to help Berkshire teachers. The Hub produced some high-quality free teaching resources in the form of video clips and support notes. **The 'Real People, Real Faith'** project produced Key Stage 1-3 classroom clips, these 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. SACRE is pleased to announce that

recently filmed Humanism clips are now uploaded. Teacher notes have also been produced to accompany each video clip. They are hosted on the NATRE website <https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/real-people-real-faith/> SACRE is delighted that the site has had over 4,500 hits and hopes they will continue to be used.

The hub meets termly and is now in discussion about the Pan Berkshire Agreed Syllabus review process – there will be opportunities for Pan Berkshire teachers to be involved. The hub has already gathered opinions on the existing syllabus and what changes might be needed to be included to reflect what has happened in the world of RE since the last syllabus was written. Please keep an eye open for opportunities and let David Rees know if you wish to be involved.

News – national

Regional RE Hubs

New regional RE Hubs have been set up to build relationships with advisers, dioceses, universities, SACREs, LAs, governors, MATs, teaching school hubs and more. The Regional Leads will also act as conduits between the regional providers of research, CPD, resources, places of worship and so on for the benefit of all Religion and Worldview stakeholders.

SACRE Adviser David Rees will be involved in these and will keep you updated through networks and newsletters – it is a really exciting development which could really help RE teachers and leaders connect more locally and hopefully nationally. The website is now up and running and signposts many useful RE links including REQM and a growing list of regional speakers for school visits – check out the website here <https://www.re-hubs.uk/>

Interfaith week

Inter Faith Week takes place this year from **Sunday 12 to Sunday 19 November**.

The Week begins on Remembrance Sunday to encourage the remembering together of service of soldiers and civilians of different faiths and beliefs from Britain and the Commonwealth and to reflect on peace.

The Inter Faith Week website www.interfaithweek.org has lots of activity ideas, with examples and illustrations drawn from the many successful activities held for the Week to date by faith and belief bodies; local inter faith organisations; community and voluntary organisations; workplaces and staff networks; local authorities; emergency services; SACREs; schools, colleges, universities and youth organisations; chaplaincies; sports organisations; libraries; museums and art galleries; hospitals and hospices; and many others. It also includes practical guidance and links to further information. Ideas for activities can be found here: <https://www.interfaithweek.org/resources/ideas>

Culham St Gabriel's

Culham St Gabriel's NEW theme of the term is the Abrahamic faiths. They are kicking off with a FREE textbook on Shia Islam which teachers can download. Keep an eye on CSTG postings which will be exploring interesting aspects of teaching Islam, Christianity and Judaism for the rest of the term.

They have recently added a new course on Subject Knowledge and one more is planned for this Autumn: <https://courses.cstg.org.uk/>

The Introduction to Religion and Worldviews course is designed for teachers and non-teachers so. It will help them be up to date in current thinking about RE.

Also coming up is a free conference for Primary RE hosted by the Institute of Ismaili Studies in London.
CPD: Islam in the RE Classroom

This CPD event aims to enhance the quality of learning and teaching about Islam in Primary and Secondary RE classrooms in the UK. All KS1-3 mainstream schoolteachers/subject leaders who would like to learn about RE in general and Islam in particular are invited to join. An excellent opportunity to engage with the aesthetic, artistic, mystical and poetic expressions of a faith tradition that has evolved over time and geography.

Date and Time: 23 September 2023 (Saturday) 10:00 am - 4:30 pm

Venue: The Ismaili Centre, London - 1-7 Cromwell Gardens, South Kensington, London SW7 2SL

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/islam-in-the-re-classroom-tickets-696829885947>

RE Online

RE Online is a free quality-controlled website designed to support teachers with many different aspects of teaching and leading RE. The website has excellent knowledge essays designed to help teacher subject knowledge – these cover up to 15 different religions and worldviews and are written by experts in the field. These can be found at <https://www.reonline.org.uk/> under the knowledge tab.

A popular part of the website features the SHAP festivals calendar. As many of you will be aware the autumn term includes many festivals from a variety of religions and worldviews including

Some of this term's festivals include...

September 18th - Ganesh Chaturthi (birthday of Ganesh) – Hindu tradition

September 24th – Harvest – Christianity

September 25th – Yom Kippur – Judaism

November 8th – Birthday of Guru Nanak – Sikhi

December 8th – Bodhi Day – Buddhism

The website has information about the beliefs and practices behind each festival available here

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

Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) takes place each year on **27 January**. Holocaust Memorial Day Trust (HMDT) encourages remembrance in a world scarred by genocide. 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. <https://www.hmd.org.uk/>

Fragility of Freedom is the theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2024.

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) 2024 marks the 30th anniversary of the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. 49 years after the Holocaust ended, 19 years after the genocide in Cambodia, the world stood by as Hutu extremists shattered the fragile freedom in Rwanda, following decades of tension and violence, culminating in the murder of over one million Tutsis in just one hundred days.

HMD trust resources can help you learn more about the Holocaust and genocide and plan your own HMD activity. Explore life stories of survivors and those who were murdered, virtual activities, schools' materials, films, images and more using the filters below. <https://www.hmd.org.uk/resources/>

There will be local and national events as usual – more details on local events will be included in the January newsletter.

Resource and event news (often quoted from the providers)

- Jigsaw RE, the enquiry approach to Religious Education

'A one-of-a-kind, exciting way to teach RE across the primary school!

Jigsaw RE is the big sister of Discovery RE and turns Discovery RE's medium term planning into lesson-by-lesson plans and adds lots more enquiries giving lots of choice as to which religion/worldview to teach when.

Jigsaw RE is a comprehensive Scheme of Learning for Religious Education for the primary school, ages 3-12. Written by RE specialist teachers in the Jigsaw Team and trialled by 100 schools, the weekly lesson plans with all the resources needed to deliver them, and integral assessment process make Jigsaw RE the vehicle to transform statutory RE in the primary school. It adopts an enquiry-based Worldviews approach to teaching and learning with much flexibility and choice of which religion/worldview to include when.

This means Jigsaw RE is compatible with, and a huge help to implementing locally agreed syllabi across the UK. Our complimentary mapping documents transparently share how we see Jigsaw RE supporting each agreed syllabus and flag up gaps if there are any. Schools access Jigsaw RE by purchasing an annual or 3-yearly subscription. Prices relate to the number of pupils in the school.

See www.jigsaweducationgroup.com or contact us office@janleveragegroup.com and we will be happy to help you.'

- The hugely popular annual **CREative, REinspiring Virtual RE Conference** will run again all day on **Tuesday 19th March 2024**, it will once again be open to all schools and will have inputs covering EYFS-Key Stage 4 – it will have a mixture of familiar faces and fresh new people too. Please hold the date, further details will follow in the January newsletter.
- Humanists UK – visit their website for free downloadable resources, including lesson plans, classroom activities, presentations, videos, and humanist perspectives on a range of topics discussed in school, see our website Understanding Humanism. Teachers can also find guidance and information about CPD opportunities. You can also request a visit from a free humanist school speaker.

There are also two free online courses to develop your subject knowledge.

Visit these pages for all of the above information

<https://humanists.uk/education/teachers/> and <https://understandinghumanism.org.uk/>

- 'Learn Islam is a group of doctors, trustees, professionals, teachers and volunteers, which has been setup to help teachers. We work to provide high quality material related to Islam for free that has been verified, so that teachers are able to teach these topics in schools from young years to teenagers with more confidence and ease. These include:
PowerPoints slides for Primary and Secondary Schools.
Worksheets and Quizzes based on the slides to assess knowledge.
Covering KS1 through to KS4.
These are aligned to the RE syllabus, based on SACRE guidelines for Primary Schools and GCSE for Secondary Schools
88 recorded words on how to pronounce them based on the curriculum.
Resources can be found on the website www.learn-islam.co.uk
- Muslim Learner Services
'Promoting a better understanding of Islam in Schools and Colleges'

Muslim Learner Services based in visits schools (in-person or virtually) and supports primary schools with Islam assemblies, pupil workshops, staff training and Islam teaching resources.

Muslim Learner Services aims to:

- Promote a greater understanding of Islam in schools and colleges to foster better relationships between learners of all faiths and no faith.
- Help learners understand how to keep themselves safe from radicalisation and extremism.
- Support learners' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, so that they are well prepared to respect others and contribute to wider society and life in Britain today.

Information and contact details can be found in the website below

<https://muslimlearnerservices.org/>

- NATRE, the subject teacher association for RE professionals, works to support those who teach and lead in all schools and institutions and at all stages of their career. NATRE has a website which includes a resource library - <https://www.natre.org.uk/resources/>

NATRE also organises the excellent **Strictly RE** conference which runs from 27th-28th January 2024 (Saturday and Sunday) with other seminars being run at twilight times before and after these dates. Strictly RE has become a key date in the diary for the RE community. With 400+ people taking part in over 25 online sessions, this event is a great place for RE professionals to come together to share ideas, gain new knowledge and further boost confidence when teaching RE, as there will be lots of downloads, presentations and ready-to-use resources for the classroom. There will be something for everyone, from Headteachers and Senior Leaders to Primary Teachers and ITEs. The Strictly RE 2024 event theme is 'Building a subject for the future!' SACRE RE Adviser will be attending and will be rolling out some of the key points in the Winter term networks.

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 Winter term. In the meantime, SACRE sends very best wishes to you for the new term and as always commends you for all your hard work and dedication.

David Rees SACRE RE Adviser

September 2023