



SACRE NEWS

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education
Autumn 2019

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RE Network Meeting

This term: Teach Meet

4.15 - 5.30 pm Wednesday 2nd October 2019

St Michael's Easthampstead CE Primary School Crowthorne Road Easthampstead
Bracknell Berkshire RG12 7EH

Bring and share resources that have worked well for you in RE

Bring and share your questions

For Primary and Secondary teachers of RE
Please book with Anne Andrews

anne.andrews@oxford.anglican.org



Pan-Berkshire Syllabus Guidance KS3 Material now available

The guidance materials for supporting teachers in delivering the KS3 section of the Pan-Berkshire Agreed Syllabus (2018-2023) are now available along with all the previous materials here:

<https://www.oxford.anglican.org/schools/religious-education/religious-education-resources/policies-and-agreed-syllabuses/>

The guidance has been split into two documents to make it easier to navigate. The CORE document covers Christianity, Islam, Buddhism and Humanism (as an example of a non-religious worldview) and the OPTIONAL document has suggested content for Judaism, Hinduism and Sikhism. There are also suggested assessment questions and activities, as well as some resource templates which you may find useful.

We would really value feedback on how helpful these resources are. Please send any feedback to anne.andrews@oxford.anglican.org. Alternatively, feedback will be welcome at the next RE network meeting on 2nd October at St. Michael's Easthampstead, Crowthorne Road, RG12 7EH. See above for details.

During the course of the academic year, Bracknell Forest SACRE, in conjunction with the LA will be monitoring the impact of the syllabus on the quality of RE teaching across the borough, so please respond to any requests for information, as this will enable SACRE to improve the materials as required.

Training opportunities this term: **New to RE - or need a REfreshers?**

Tuesday 8 October 2019 9.30am – 3.30pm
Church House Oxford, Langford Locks, Kidlington, OX5 1GF
Cost: £95 - £125 depending on school status

With the new OFSTED inspection framework and for church schools an up-dated Statement of Entitlement and SIAMS schedule, this one day course for RE leaders is designed for those who are new to post and for those who feel they need a refresher. The course will cover the basics of subject leadership, including curriculum design, planning, resources, monitoring and evaluating RE.

[Click here to book this course](#)



Global Neighbours

A Christian Aid global education accreditation scheme

Friday 22 November 2019 9.30am – 3.30pm

Church House Oxford, Langford Locks, Kidlington, OX5 1GF

Cost: £50

This is a one day course, led by Caz Weir from Christian Aid. Delegates will discuss the “whys and how’s” of engaging pupils in discussion and action to challenge injustice and inequality. They will explore some of the resources available to help them in this work and learn about the Global Neighbours accreditation scheme. Linking to personal development in the OFSTED framework, several strands in the SIAMS schedule and contributing to bold and ethical curriculum decisions, this day will help teachers to tap into the ways young people want to change the world.

[Click here to book this course](#)



Understanding Christianity

Friday 17 January 2020 9.30am – 4.00pm;

Friday 27 March 2020 9.30am – 4.00pm and

Friday 12 June 2020 9.30am – 12.00pm (a delegate must attend all three sessions)

Church House Oxford, Langford Locks, Kidlington, OX5 1GF

Cost £235 +VAT (SLA schools) £250 +VAT (non SLA schools) £30 (second delegate)

This two and a half day accredited training course will give teachers access to this essential resource and ample opportunities to explore good RE teaching. Using “Text, Impact, Connections” this resource offers teachers a way to explore core Christianity as a living faith, using core theological concepts. There are units for each year group from F2 through to Year 9 with lesson ideas and resources. This resource is available only to schools that send a delegate on accredited training.

[Click here to book this course \(this link will book all three sessions\)](#)

If you have a member of clergy connected with the school, tell them about this course:

Supporting Schools with *Understanding Christianity*

Friday 18 October 2019 9.30am – 3.30pm

Church House Oxford, Langford Locks, Kidlington, OX5 1GF

Cost: £10

This is a one-day course for clergy who are supporting schools in the teaching of Christianity.

Understanding Christianity is a widely used resource, published by RE Today and the Church of England Education Office. The material offers a coherent approach to the teaching of Christianity covering 8 key concepts within a Biblical context. This session will give clergy an opportunity to explore the resource and consider ways to support schools. The resource is not included in this training day.

[Click here to book this course](#)



Bracknell Forest RE Ambassador Scheme

Bracknell Forest SACRE is looking for secondary schools to participate in an exciting project that brings RE to life and engages with local primary schools. The scheme, based on projects running in other parts of the country, will train a group of students to give presentations on an aspect of religion, faith or religious education of their choosing. These students will take their presentations into a local primary school and deliver part of a lesson to pupils there. The training will take place at Ranelagh School, where the scheme has been running successfully for two years.

If you are interested in getting your students involved in this project please contact anne.andrews@oxford.anglican.org for further details and to arrange dates.

Real People, Real Faith - a new Crossing the Bridges project

The Pan-Berkshire SACREs have secured funding for a new project to supplement the Crossing the Bridges materials, by adding clips of members of communities being interviewed in their worship or community centres. Called **“Real People, Real Faith”** this project will allow small groups of teachers to visit a place of worship where they will have the opportunity to interview members of the community using questions from the Locally Agreed Syllabus as a basis. These interviews will be recorded and added to the bank of resources that make up Crossing the Bridges. In order to make this project as accessible as possible, the sessions will take place out of school hours, with each one involving a different group of teachers and a different venue spread across the whole Pan-Berkshire region. Most of the sessions will take place in the spring term.

If you would like to be involved in this project either as an interviewer or if you have recording and editing experience, please get in touch with anne.andrews@oxford.anglican.org.

If you have used any of the Crossing the Bridges materials to help you plan a trip to a place of worship SACRE would love your feedback and any reports on successful visits. If you have visited a place not on the list, please send us details so that we can add them to the directory. Follow this link for all the resources:

<https://schools.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/training/education-centre/sacre-and-re-resources/>

If you have not yet come across this resource it contains is a directory of places of worship and visitors, information sheets about each of the places listed and suggested activities for pupils to do while there.

OFSTED and RE?

You will be aware that a new OFSTED inspection framework is now in its initial introductory phase. There will be a renewed focus on the curriculum and the general quality of education. This now puts RE back onto the OFSTED agenda as a “deep dive” into RE is possible for any type of school. Government ministers have stated several times recently that quality RE is part of the broad and balanced curriculum that should be offered to all pupils to prepare them for life in modern Britain. The law is very clear that all pupils in school should have RE, at every key stage of their education, and the Pan-Berkshire syllabus sets out the local expectations for what that should look like in every key stage. Paragraph 172 of the latest OFSTED School inspection handbook reiterates this.

It remains to be seen what a “deep dive” into RE (or any other subject for that matter) will actually look like, but it will almost certainly focus on the quality of the curriculum, the intent behind that curriculum, how that is implemented and whether as a result of the curriculum pupils know more and are able to do more. Even if RE is not the subject of a “deep dive”, its contribution to “personal development” and “behaviour and attitudes” will doubtless come to the fore. Every subject leader needs to read “Inspecting the Curriculum”, a document produced by OFSTED in May 2019 and ensure that their subject is as well prepared as possible for an OFSTED visit. Carry out an audit of your curriculum. Check that it fulfils the requirements of the Locally Agreed Syllabus (or funding agreement if in a VA school or an academy), particularly in the breadth and range of religions covered. Ensure that there is progression through the curriculum and that pupils make progress. Internal data will not usually be part of the inspection process, but inspectors will want to know how teachers know that pupils are progressing.

The spring term network meeting will explore further preparing for OFSTED, once a few inspections have taken place and there is more clarity about the process. In the meantime if you have any queries or questions about how to prepare for OFSTED, please get in touch with SACRE through the clerk: lizzie.rich@bracknell-forest.gov.uk.

Welcome to our regional NATRE RE Ambassador

Sarah Payne has been appointed by NATRE to be the local RE ambassador for NATRE. Her role is to facilitate communication between NATRE and RE teachers across the region. She will be working for one day a month, and has set up a Facebook page. The group is entitled **RE Teachers in South Central**, so if you are interested in keeping up to date with developments locally and regionally and you are a Facebook user this is the place for you. You can also keep informed on the NATRE page: <https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/re-in-your-region/south-central/> where there will be information about upcoming RE network meetings and other training events. NATRE membership is not required to access this information, but if you are interested in receiving a termly mailing, subscriptions are available from £75 per year. Specific primary and secondary mailings are available including a range of resources.



Festivals this term

For RE and collective worship

Ensure that collective worship is inclusive of those of all faiths and none by including a range of festivals as the autumn term has a wide range of festivals of a religious and secular nature. For more ideas than those listed below follow this link:

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

Most schools are familiar with harvest and many make the Bracknell Food Bank the recipient of harvest collections. Think about making the work of the Trussell Trust, the umbrella organisation for foodbanks, the focus of a collective worship. Remember that although harvest festival is often linked to a local church, there are similar festivals in other faith and belief communities. Sukkot is a Jewish festival of thanksgiving for the fruit harvest, overlaid with symbolic meaning, as Jewish people remember the time the people spent in the wilderness after leaving Egypt. This year Sukkot will be celebrated between the 14th and the 22nd October.

Other Jewish festivals this term are Rosh Hashanah, the new year, on 30th September and Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, on 9th October. At Rosh Hashanah apples are dipped in honey as people are blessed for a sweet new year. For the fit and able, Yom Kippur is 25 hours of total fasting, with not even water passing the lips of the observant worshipper. The purpose of Yom Kippur is to atone for the sins of the previous year.



The Islamic festival of Ashura falls this year on 9th September. This festival remembers the day Noah (Nu) left the ark and the day Moses was saved from Pharaoh as he crossed the Sea. It is usually a day of fasting for Muslims, not wholly unlike Yom Kippur, and is considered by many as an opportunity to atone for the sins of the previous year. This term also sees the festival of Milad al-Nabi (alternative spellings abound) which is the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad. This year it will take place on 9th and 10th November, but across the Muslim world there are numerous differences in the way this festival is celebrated. Find out if any of your Muslim students are celebrating either of these festivals and if so, what their family tradition is.

For Sikhs autumn sees the celebrations of the birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the founder of Sikhism. This year that will be on the 12th November (even though the actual birthday of Nanak is on 15th April). This year marks the 550th anniversary of his birth in 1469. Gurdwaras are decorated with lights, flowers and flags and as with most Sikh events, food is served in great quantities. Two days before Sikhs will start with Kirtan – sung prayers from the Guru Granth Sahib (the Sikh holy book) and this is followed by an Arkhand Path – a 48 hour reading of the scriptures from beginning to end. Sikhs will also celebrate Divali (usually called Bandi Chhor Divas in the Sikh faith) commemorating the release of Guru Har Gobind from prison, bringing with him a large number of other prisoners, each holding a tassel from his cloak. Lights

and good food accompany this celebration, as for Hindu Divali. Both faiths will this year celebrate on 27th October.

For the Hindu, Divali commemorates the triumph of good over evil as epitomised in the story of Rama and Sita. Also equated with the deity of fortune, Lakshmi, the festival merges into the Hindu new year as families get together and pray for good fortune, wealth and prosperity for each other.



For Baha'i believers the 29th and 30th October are commemorations of the birth of the Bab and of Baha'u'llah respectively. Both Bab and Baha'u'llah are considered by Baha'is to be manifestations of God, the Bab preparing the way for Baha'u'llah, the founder of the faith. The celebration is marked by Baha'is gathering to pray, read from the Baha'i writings, sing and dance and generally celebrate with much joy.

This year, December 1st is also the first Sunday of Advent, the Church's new year, when Christians look back to the first Christmas and forward to the return of Jesus sometime in the future, as predicted by Jesus himself and the books of Daniel and Revelation. All Saints Day is as usual on November 1st, when many Christians remember all Christians who have died. It is worth finding out how Christians around the world mark this day; from taking flowers to the graves of loved ones who have died (chrysanthemums in France), to the Mexican Day of the Dead.

Bracknell Interfaith Week

10th -17th November



Have you ever wondered how religion and science are viewed by Christians or Muslims or Jews or Buddhists?

On Thursday 14 November at 7pm at St Joseph's Church, Braccan Walk, Bracknell Town Centre, speakers from various faiths will address the question "Are Science and Religion compatible?" This is a free event and provides an excellent opportunity to meet with local representatives from a wider range of faith views. More details will be available on the Interfaith week website: <https://www.interfaithweek.org/> in due course.

Get Involved

Bracknell Forest SACRE meets once a term and offers advice to the Local Authority on all matters connected with Religious Education and Collective Worship. There are vacancies for teachers (all key stages) and faith group representatives. SACRE would be keen to hear from members of the Buddhist and Sikh faiths, as well as Church of England, and free churches. If you are interested, please contact any of the people listed below who will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

We also welcome any comments on this newsletter or articles for future editions.

For any further information about RE, Collective Worship or SACRE, or to share any news or leave feedback please contact any one of the following:

Elizabeth Rich: elizabeth.rich@bracknell-forest.gov.uk (Clerk to SACRE)

Anne Andrews: anne.andrews@oxford.anglican.org (Adviser to SACRE)

Gary Paterson: gary.paterson@bracknell-forest.gov.uk (Local authority Officer)

NEXT SACRE MEETING
Wednesday 13th November

17.00

Venue TBC

**Agenda will be published one week before
the meeting**