

Slough SACRE

Autumn Term 2020 RE Newsletter

As the new school year starts, we want to wish you all the best with the new arrangements and hope that some sense of normality can resume. The last six months have involved challenges that we have not seen before and the dedication of teachers continues to be inspirational.

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.

It would be really helpful if schools could let SACRE know the name and email address of the RE lead. This would enable SACRE to circulate RE specific information directly to the correct person. Please send the details to the SACRE Adviser for RE, David Rees, - david@reesuk.onmicrosoft.com

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. If you would like to attend any of these or receive information about support for RE please email David on david@reesuk.onmicrosoft.com

Pan Berkshire Hub

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 '**Real People, Real Faith**' project has been running over the last year producing video clips of interviews with members of different local faith communities. The interviews use the questions from the locally agreed syllabus and are supported by lesson notes. Many of the clips are now complete and will hopefully be made available to schools very soon. Sadly, the COVID pandemic did halt proceedings for a while but steps are being taken to ensure the project is completed. To that end a further filming is taking place on October 21st at Slough Baptist church. Please contact your local SACRE for more details.

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>

RE Online is now producing a newsletter every month as a way of offering greater support in the current difficult time. Sometimes being an RE leader can be an isolated experience, the newsletter aims to connect people and to inspire.

As well as the newsletter there are teaching resources, knowledge pieces on all the major faiths and worldviews designed to help improve subject knowledge and ideas on how to connect with faith communities.

There are also a series of blogs written for teachers by teachers – these are currently called ‘**How I**’ blogs and are designed to inspire teachers to try new things. A new series called ‘**Inspired by**’ are designed to give teachers to share something or someone who has inspired them. They are short ‘coffee time’ reads

All of this information can be found here

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

Upcoming events

Interfaith week

Interfaith week is celebrated each year in November. This year the week runs from 8th – 15th November – information can be found here <https://www.interfaithweek.org/>

At this time of COVID-19, the Week is a great way to sustain and build connections and to highlight and celebrate work to promote respect, understanding and cooperation and celebrate diversity, inclusion and common values.

The website gives information and suggested activities. This year there are more online and virtual activities to reflect the current needs of schools.

Inter faith Network

The mission statement of the Interfaith network is

‘Working with faith communities, inter faith organisations, educators and others to increase understanding and cooperation between people of different faiths and to widen public awareness of the distinctive religious traditions in the UK.’

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

– <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/>

HMDT

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 2021 is ‘Be a light in the Darkness’. There is an excellent website which lists events happening and offering suggestions on how to run local events. There are educational resources released in September every year.

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.

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/>

CPD Opportunities

Since the COVID outbreak face to face CPD opportunities have not been possible however the RE world has been creative in arranging some virtual conferences. Others are in the pipeline too – some of these focus on the link. Some events like the free **RExChange** virtual conference have proved very popular selling out in a matter of hours.

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 in January 2021, renamed 'Strictly RE @ Home '. This year the conference offers 4 keynote speeches and a choice of 24 seminars including sessions on a wide variety of topics across all key stages including:

- Anti-racist RE (Primary & Secondary sessions)
- Beginners Guide to Curriculum Building at Secondary (Secondary)
- Primary subject leadership (the how to guide) (Primary)
- A new Curriculum for Wales: Ideas and innovation for RE in schools everywhere (Cross phase)
- Shake, rattle and roll – make some noise! Judaism in the primary school (Primary)
- Worldviews within Islam (Cross phase)
- Virtual visits and visitors (plundering the online) (Cross phase)
- RS and Religion and Worldviews. We teach both and here's why! (Secondary)
- Teaching about Hindu worldviews at KS3 (Secondary)

For more information including costings follow this link <https://www.natre.org.uk/courses-events/strictlyRE-2021/>

Pan Berkshire Teachers conference

The Pan Berkshire RE Teachers was due to run in July 2020 but was postponed due to the pandemic and resulting lockdown. The conference will be planned for July 2021 depending on the latest situation. More details will be revealed as they become available.

Tech Free Starters Resource

Attached is a tech free starter grid. Thanks to Mrs Archibald and Miss Gundry from Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre, Reading for the resource.

Social Media

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

- Save RE – a group for RE professionals
- RE in the South Central – linked to NATREs regional ambassadors

Twitter

- #REChatUK
- @RE:Online – RE Online updates and info from Culham St Gabriel's' Trust

David Rees
Professional Adviser to Slough SACRE



Starter activity grid

Student-led starters: Get ready to learn in RE! Pick a starter activity to complete before your teacher arrives. Complete it in your exercise book. Shaded activities have hot and/or hotter challenge tasks.

1. Give 5 things you learnt in the last lesson, last week or last topic in RE.	2. Create 3 exam questions about your last lesson, last week or topic in RE.	3. Create a dual coding icon for at least 3 key words from your current topic.	4. Alphabet run: For each letter of the alphabet write a key words.	5. Tell your partner 3 facts of concepts you learnt in your last lesson, last week or last in RE.
6. Write out the letters A-L. List at least 1 key word for each letter. Hot: Define the key words. Hotter: Use the key word in a sentence correctly!	7. Write out the letters M-Z. List at least 1 key word for each letter. Hot: Define the key words. Hotter: Use the key word in a sentence correctly!	8. Create 4 true or false questions on a something you find difficult in your current RE topic. Hot: Explain why the answers are correct or incorrect.	9. Pick a number between 1-5. Pick a letter. The number you picked is the number of key words/ phrases you need to list beginning with the letter you chose!	10. Create a multiple choice quiz with at least 5 questions on what you learnt last lesson, last week, last topic or last year!
11. Brain dump! Using a ruler and pencil, draw a box on your page. Now fill the box with everything you can recall about the current topic. Hot: What is the most important thing you have learnt so far in the topic? Why?	12. Identify a skill you have learnt in RE recently. Explain how you can apply that skills to another topic, another subject or real life. Hot: What skills do you think you still need to learn in RE?	13. Choose a key word from the current topic. Define it. Draw a diagram/ picture to represent it. Use it in a sentence. Hot: Link it to another topic or key word in RE. Hotter: Explain the link!	14. Create a word cloud for this topic so far. Hot: Draw lines to connect key words or concepts that are linked together. Hotter: Explain how/ why the key words or concepts are linked.	15. Write the number 1-10 on your page. Write a key word next to number 1. Write a key word next to number 2 that links to the word for number 1. Write a key word next to number 3 that links to number 2. Can you get to 10?

16. Can any good come from natural or moral evil? Justify your opinion.	17. If you could change one thing about the world, what would it be and why ?	18. If RE was a colour, what colour would it be and why ?	19. Find out 3 things your partner learnt last lesson, last week or during the last topic in RE.	20. What do you need to learn next in RE? How would that link to what you already know?
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Teacher-led starters: In your book, complete the starter selected by your teacher with the information they have provided (verbally or on the board). Shaded activities have hot and/or hotter challenge tasks.

21. <u>5 in 5!</u> List 5 things for each of the 5 categories your teacher has given you.	22. <u>Outburst!</u> List as many things as you can for each of the categories the teacher has given you. Hot: Try to list things you think no one else will have!	23. <u>Odd one out!</u> Create a set of 5 words, one of which is an odd one out. Do this for each category your teacher has given you. Hot: Be able to explain why the odd one out is odd!	24. <u>Key terms</u> Define the key terms given to you by your teacher. Hot: Use the key terms in a sentence. Hotter: Link the key terms with each other.	25. <u>What is the question?</u> Your teacher will write an answer on the board. Suggest what the question could be.
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Mrs Archibald and Miss Gundry
Highdown School and Sixth Form Centre
Reading