

For the attention of RE teachers and RE leads in Slough

Contents include

- Welcome
- What is a SACRE and what does it do?
- OFSTED and RE
- Support for RE teachers

SACRE NEWS

Welcome to the first Slough SACRE newsletter.

This newsletter aims to reach out to RE teachers and RE leads in Slough schools and offer

- Local and national updates
- Information on SACRE funded projects like
 - Teacher network meetings
 - CPD opportunities
 - Pan Berkshire Hub agreed syllabus support materials
- Other support available

But first some of you may want to know what a SACRE is!

What is SACRE and what does it do?

A SACRE is part of local government. Its main function is to advise the local authority (LA) on matters related to Religious Education and Collective Worship in schools. Slough SACRE (**Standing Advisory Council for RE**) meets every term bringing teachers, councillors and representatives of faith communities together to discuss the monitoring of RE and Collective Worship. SACRE discusses ways of providing support and is looking to hear from schools and teachers concerning RE and ways of engaging with faith and worldview communities

SACRE is always looking for volunteers to become members so if you would like to check for vacancies please contact the clerk to SACRE Nadia Williams on

Nadia.Williams@slough.gov.uk

The last meeting was on March 4th and the Summer term meeting will be on 15th July 2020

Part of SACREs work is to try to offer **support to RE teachers**, this is especially important as RE teachers are often in a department of one and may not get many opportunities to share ideas and raise concerns. Slough SACRE has recently commissioned some **new RE network meetings**, these will initially be available for all Key Stages and will be run by the new advisor for RE to SACRE David Rees. David is an independent consultant who was a secondary RE lead for 25 years and an advanced skills teacher for the last 13 of those years. He is committed to offering support to RE teachers and hopes that the new network meetings will bring opportunities for teachers to share ideas, develop their skills and find out about national and local RE developments

RE Networks

The first RE network meeting was held on February 27th at the Slough and Eton school at 4pm. There will be a meeting each full term so the next one should be in the summer term, a date has yet to be fixed but please keep an eye open for information to be sent to schools.

Ideally, we would like to collect the work email for RE leads so that we can directly alert people to resource ideas, cpd opportunities and other types of support. Please contact David Rees on

david@reesuk.onmicrosoft.com to book your place or make enquiries

The Pan Berkshire Hub

The Pan Berkshire hub is a joint collaboration between the 6 Berkshire SACREs – it aims to develop resources and support materials for the agreed syllabus as well as find ways to offer support and training opportunities. The work of the hub this year is listed below

Real People, Real Faith – progress so far

The Pan-Berkshire SACREs project to supplement the Crossing the Bridges materials is underway. The first filming session of **Real People, Real Faith** took place at the synagogue in Maidenhead in October. Four members of the Jewish community were interviewed by teachers from across Berkshire and their responses were filmed by Jerry Curd from Hungry Earth Productions.

The following questions were asked:

KS1: What symbols are important to you? What stories are important to you?

KS2: How special is your relationship with God? How does this affect the way you live your life?

KS3: In what ways do science, belief and religion interact and what difference might this make?

Why might it matter that sacred texts are often open to interpretation?

There will be at least five more opportunities to be involved in this project. There are plans in place to visit a Hindu Mandir, a Sikh Gurdwara, a Mosque and two churches of different denominations. We plan to use more or less the same questions at each venue so that teachers can then compare the responses of different people and different faiths. If you would like to be involved in this project as an interviewer or writing the support materials, 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://discoveryschemeofwork.com/crossing-the-bridges/>

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 is 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 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. Even though inspectors will not look at internal data they will want to know how teachers know that pupils are progressing.

The network meetings will explore further preparing for OFSTED, once a few inspections have taken place and there is more clarity about the process.

Support and opportunities

Welcome to our regional NATRE RE Ambassador

Sarah Payne has been appointed by NATRE (National Association of Teachers of RE) 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.



CPD opportunity



SACRE conference

**Easthampstead
Park**

Thurs 2 July

6pm – 9 pm

Buffet supper

Discussion around the
Real People, Real Faith
project, and what
might come next.

funded by our
contribution to the
SACRE hub

This is the first notification for the Pan Berkshire hub conference designed to launch the new free classroom resource video clips called 'Real People Real Faith' – these have been funded by the 6 Berkshire SACREs as art of a hub agreement. These materials are designed to help teachers answer some of the key questions used in the new Pan Berkshire agreed syllabus for RE

Free Online support

There are several excellent websites offering free support to RE teachers – this support includes teaching materials, subject knowledge information and access to faith believers

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

REOnline has recently completed a complete revamp of the website and it is now a clearer and easier website to us – there are free quality-controlled teaching resources available as well as articles about the latest developments in the RE world. There are many blogs on a range of RE related topics including some reflections from RE teachers who attended the inspirational 'Strictly RE' conference in January as well as a new series of blogs called 'How I' designed to inspire people to try something new.

Some of the titles of these include

- How I... managed a new year 11 class
- How I... value trips in the curriculum
- How I... use social media to support teachers
- How I... became a regional ambassador for RE
- How I... achieved REQM Silver award
- How I... keep my local RE Network up and running



Email a Believer

The Email a Believer website is situated on the REOnline home page

<http://pof.reonline.org.uk/>

Email a Believer gives you the opportunity to email questions through to a believer from 10 different faiths and worldviews namely

Baha'i, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Humanism, Islam, Judaism, Paganism, Sikhism and The Church of Jesus Christ and the Latter-Day Saints,

This is a completely free quality controlled service – answers will be sent to you within a few days – if you are sending questions from a specific year group please state this so that the answers can be made age appropriate – this is a superb resource if you do not have direct contact with a faith or worldview community

Discovery RE

Many schools in the Pan Berkshire area have Discovery RE but some still have not been sent their free updates for the version 3 – this includes new modules and new assessments focussing on end of year expectations. Please visit the website for details

<https://discoveryschemeofwork.com/>

Inspection materials are available for schools wishing to have a look at Discovery RE materials and a document is available showing how it maps to the Pan Berkshire syllabus.

Please also remember that the **crossing the bridges** materials concerning visits to places of worship are also freely available form here

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

Hopefully there have been a few things to interest you here

We would love to see teachers at network meetings and hear from teachers about their RE.

Please do email the advisor David Rees on david@reesuk.onmicrosoft.com for further information

and keep an eye open for the summer term edition.

I hope the rest of term goes well