

# Summer Term 2022 RE Newsletter

## Slough SACRE

Welcome to the final SACRE RE newsletter of the academic year. As always SACRE wishes to send out a sincere thank you to all teachers and schools for the way in which you continue to show such dedication to children and education during this difficult year.

In this newsletter we will try to keep you updated on local and national updates, opportunities, resources and chances to engage.

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 these newsletters designed to inform you of some or all of the following

- Local and national RE developments
- Free classroom resources
- Upcoming CPD and networking opportunities
- News from faith communities – national and local

### **RE leader details**

Many thanks to those schools who have already sent the name of their RE lead through to David – these people will now receive RE related information direct to their inbox. It would be really helpful if remaining schools could let David know the RE lead's school email address so he can directly keep them updated on what support is available. This is particularly important if the person in post changes or if someone is new to teaching. Please send any new details to David on [david@reesuk.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:david@reesuk.onmicrosoft.com)

### **Free Teacher network meeting - Thursday 28th April at 4pm**

Early this term we are planning a **mega network** joining with other areas. In this meeting Dr Kate Christopher will be joining us to explain a new project on Islam on **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April at 4pm**

A flyer has also been sent to schools – here is a flavour of what the network will include

#### **In Dr Christopher's own words**

**What does a worldviews approach look like in practice?** This project aims to make sense of and explore worldviews thinking through practical resources for the classroom, focusing on the teaching of Islam.

We have produced practical lessons resources to introduce worldviews thinking for KS1 – 5. The resources are designed so that teachers can adapt and change them to suit the needs of their classrooms.

#### **Find out more about the project here:**

<https://www.reonline.org.uk/research/research-of-the-month/islam-as-a-worldview/>

This meeting will be virtual

**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.**

## Pan-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. SACRE is often asked about arranging visits and/or having visitors into school to help bring the world of RE to life a little more. The hub still promotes the crossing the bridges materials and directory but is aware that it needs to be updated. Existing resources can be found in several places including the website link below

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

as well as the Discovery RE website <https://discoveryschemeofwork.com/crossing-the-bridges/>

**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 as well as in the pan Berkshire hub website

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

The questions answered are as follows

KS1

- What Symbols are important to you?
- What stories are important to you?

KS2

- How special is your relationship with God?
- How does your belief in God affect your daily 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 open to interpretation?

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 soon.

SACRE would like to encourage you to use these resources in the classroom. It would be really helpful to hear how these are being used. Are they used as starters or as part of looking at the lived experience side of RE? The **recent Ofsted RE subject review** strongly encouraged engaging with people from religion and worldview communities so these clips could certainly contribute towards this. Please contact David to let SACRE know how the clips are being used and offer any other suggestions you might have about how they could be used.

## National news

- The **Strictly RE conference** took place at the end of January 2022 with over 400 teachers attending the virtual event over a weekend – many of the excellent sessions were recorded and can still be accessed via the NATRE

website (costs apply although there are discounts for members) – some of the information is being discussed at teacher networks across the region. There were excellent sessions on a range of RE issues including some in which members of faith communities discussed how to incorporate diversity within a tradition from an early age in RE lessons. <https://www.natre.org.uk/>

## Online Resources

- New Look **True Tube!** - True Tube is an award-winning website for schools that provides free short films, lesson plans and assembly scripts for RE, PSHE and Citizenship at Key Stages 3 and 4, with more resources for Key Stages 1 and 2 on the way. Recently the website has been refreshed and new content added. If you have never visited True Tube, it is a great resource for teachers of all ages of Religion and Worldviews, PSHE and Citizenship. Find out more at <https://www.truetube.co.uk/> It is free to sign up.
- A reminder to schools using **Discovery RE** that the most recent enquiry units for Lower Key Stage 2 Islam are available on the Discovery RE website along with knowledge organisers and background information sheets <https://discoveryschemeofwork.com/>  
The enquiries are called
  - How special is Allah to Muslims?
  - How important is the prophet Muhammad to Muslims?
  - How does the Qur'an influence Muslims today?To find out more visit <https://discoveryschemeofwork.com/contact-us/>
- New look **RE Quest** website – RE Quest calls itself 'A space for resources to help RE teachers and their students explore the Christian faith'. All the resources are created by practising Christians - <https://request.org.uk/>
- Are you concerned about how to pronounce some RE words? Try the **RE definitions** app or website. Here you will find key terms, definitions and pronunciations for over 15 different religions and worldviews. <http://re-definitions.org.uk/>
- The **Westminster Abbey** website has a teaching resources catalogue – here you can find free, downloadable lessons, assemblies, image banks, articles and more, which are ready to use or can act as inspiration for your own teaching resources. Search by key stage, subject or collection. <https://www.westminster-abbey.org/learning/teaching-resources/catalogue?typ=keyword&tag=British%20Values&s=09>
- **Solutions Not Sides** is an education programme that exists to provide humanising encounters, diverse narratives and critical-thinking tools in order to empower young people with the knowledge, empathy and skills to promote dialogue and conflict resolution, and to challenge prejudice in the UK. Solutions Not Sides aims to tackle Antisemitism, Islamophobia and polarisation around the issue of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the UK. <https://solutionsnotsides.co.uk/>
- The **Jewish Museum London's** new Inclusive Judaism Image Library launches 25 April. As well as images there are opportunities to access school resources including audio and visual clips, artefacts and workshops – access this new resource here <https://jewishmuseum.org.uk/>
- **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/>

### **Secondary RE forum**

**A free KS3 and above RE Forum** was launched for RE teachers in February and continues this term Run by Steph Rann at The Gryphon School in Dorset with other Secondary Hub Lead Practitioners, it is open to teachers from all regions as meetings are online. Please email Steph at [Stephanie.Rann@gryphon.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:Stephanie.Rann@gryphon.dorset.sch.uk) for details. She will send you dates and information on how to join the virtual meetings.

### **Advanced notice**

- 'Thank you' day

**Thank You Day** started in 2021 as an idea dreamed up by 13 people and is now a national event supported by hundreds of organisations. This year's day has been tied in with the Queen's 70<sup>th</sup> Jubilee and will be held on **Sunday 5th June 2022** – details can be found here - <https://thankyouday.org.uk/>

- Holocaust Memorial Day 2023

The HMDT new theme for 2023 is 'ordinary people' – the website says, 'Our theme highlights the ordinary people who let genocide happen, the ordinary people who actively perpetrated genocide, and the ordinary people who were persecuted.'

More information can be found at the homepage

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

### **News from Culham St Gabriel's Trust/RE Online**

- **Resource of the month** - Visual Commentary on Scripture (VCS) - See the bible with new ideas with this multidisciplinary resource. Find out how art and images can unlock new ways of making sense of biblical stories and concepts, in this free resource designed with teachers in mind.  
<https://www.reonline.org.uk/leadership/resource-of-the-month/>
- **New eLearning Platform** - Culham St Gabriel's has for many years provided free CPD to teachers through their popular Teach: RE courses. Times have changed and CSGT are delighted to announce the launch of their newly developed, FREE online platform for teachers' CPD. This is a supportive, stimulating and interactive way to access free, self- study courses, designed to introduce teachers (and other interested parties) to current thinking in Religion and Worldviews education. Launching with introductory courses, with more planned to follow. Find out more at one of the launch events
  - Wednesday 18th May 7–7.45pm
  - Tuesday 7th June 5-5.45pm

- Post 16 - Interesting useful and relevant books, articles, videos and podcast and information on research for older pupils  
<https://www.reonline.org.uk/teaching-resources/whats-new-an-a-level-digest/>
- The Shap working party **festivals calendar** is available on the RE Online website – here you will find upcoming festivals with information and links to some articles and activities which may be useful -  
<https://www.reonline.org.uk/festival-calendar/>

SACRE hopes that there will be things of interest to you in this newsletter and will continue to try and engage with schools to help support high quality RE teaching.

I would just like to take the opportunity to thank all the teachers who have come to networks and engaged via email over the last year. I look forward to supporting you this term and in the next academic year. Please do email if you have any suggestions for networks or information to pass on to others via the newsletters.

I hope the rest of term goes well and that you are able to have some sort of positive break from everything in the summer.

Best Wishes

David Rees

RE Adviser to SACRE