

Slough SACRE RE Newsletter

January 2024

Welcome to the new western calendar year and to the latest SACRE RE newsletter. We hope you all had a good winter break and managed to get some rest away from screens and marking for a while!

We always like to start the newsletter with a request for the direct email for the RE co-ordinator in school, particularly if the person has changed recently. We want to assure you that we will not bombard the RE lead with emails but will update them on free CPD and support provided by SACRE. It is so important for us all to be able to connect and keep up to date as the next year promises to include some major developments in RE and it would be great to be able to inform the relevant RE leader, so please could you let the SACRE adviser for RE, David Rees, know using the email below. 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.

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.

- Wednesday 20th March

If you would like to attend 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 RE News

The Pan Berkshire Hub

The Pan Berkshire Hub (a group consisting of members of 6 Berkshire SACREs (namely Bracknell Forest, Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Slough, Slough, West Berkshire and Wokingham) continues to meet under the expert leadership of Anne Andrews and work together to help provide support and resources to help Berkshire teachers. The Hub produced some excellent 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 the 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 4500 hits and hopes they will continue to be used.

The hub meets termly and is now reviewing the Pan Berkshire Agreed Syllabus. 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 updates and a timeline to the launch event.



Events, resources and links

Refreshing CREative RE conference

Don't forget to book your place on our fourth joint SACRE **CRE-ative, RE-inspiring Online RE Conference on Tuesday 19th March on Zoom**. It is a day filled with inspirational speakers and a choice of RE workshops.

Speakers include...

- Lat Blaylock – adviser for RE Today,
- Jen Jenkins – adviser to Coventry and Warwickshire SACRES and Coventry Diocese,
- Sarah Bareau – SW regional adviser for Jigsaw RE and Bristol Learn Teach Lead RE and
- Jane Kelly – adviser to Portsmouth and Winchester Diocese and SACRE member on BCP.

Content is valuable for teachers of all key stages. The cost is £60 including VAT and provides you and your school with recordings and resources from the six workshops to access for a full year. Incredible CPD! To see more content and to book, click here: <https://sdbe-onlinelearning.thinkific.com/courses/re-conf-24>

'Welcome to Worldviews' training webinars

A series of FREE webinars to enhance RE teachers' subject knowledge called 'Welcome to Worldviews' is being run by the Jigsaw Education Group. These are available free of charge to all schools not just Jigsaw RE or Discovery RE schools.

These sessions would be suitable for RE subject leaders and/or the class teachers delivering teaching different religions and worldviews to develop their subject knowledge.

These taster disciplinary subject knowledge sessions on religions and worldviews, showcase teaching and learning ideas from the new Jigsaw RE programme but there is no obligation to subscribe – details about Jigsaw can be found here <https://jigsaweducationgroup.com/>

Delegates will get a "Starter for 10" background information sheet about each topic covered as a takeaway.

- **Sikhi: 10th January 2024, 4:00PM-5:00PM**
- **Christianity: 15th January 2024, 4:00PM-5:00PM**
- **Islam: 24th January 2024, 4:00PM-5:00PM**
- **Judaism: 1st February 2024, 4:00PM-5:00PM**
- **Buddhist: 28th February 2024, 4:00PM-5:00PM**
- **Humanist: 5th March 2024, 4:00PM-5:00PM**
- **Sanatana Dharma (Hinduism): 13th March 2024, 4:00PM - 5:00PM**

Details on how to register for these free sessions can be found here.

<https://jigsawpshe.com/welcome-to-worldview-training-webinars>

NATRE and Strictly RE

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.

Please follow the link for further details

<https://www.natre.org.uk/courses-events/strictlyRE-2024/>

Regional RE Hubs

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. The website 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/>

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 **free** online courses run by Culham St Gabriel's Trust. These include short courses on

- Introduction to Religion and Worldviews
- Digging Deeper: Religion and Worldviews
- Introduction to Subject Knowledge
- Introduction to Research

These can be accessed by following this link - <https://courses.cstg.org.uk/>

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 in Rwanda.

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/>

Birmingham Faith visits

Supported by a grant from Westhill Endowment Trust, The Arts Society Birmingham has collaborated with six different places of worship, Birmingham Faith Leaders and other organisations to produce resources designed to enhance a school visit, or to support a virtual visit, to a place of worship for children 8 to 13 years.

These arts-related cross-curricular activities are designed to provide background information for teachers and to complement the RE curriculum for Key Stages 2 and 3.

They provide opportunities to explore the arts in places of worship and to help children to be more curious and reflective. They are deliberately not listed as relevant to a particular religion so that similarities as well as differences between religions may be appreciated.

The activities are grouped in three colour-coded sections:

RED: About Buildings

BLUE: Imagery and Symbols of Sacred Spaces

GREEN: Building Bridges with Communities

The website includes information and clips for Sikh, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Christian and Buddhist places of worship.

To access their free resources, follow the link... <https://birmingham-faith-visits.theartsociety.org/>

Teaching Humanism

On the 'Understanding Humanism' website you'll find a wide range of resources to support you to teach about humanism, a non-religious approach to life.

The humanist approach and understanding has been divided into five core areas of knowledge:

- Human beings (human evolution, human nature, and human potential)
- Understanding the world (naturalism and atheism, science and reason)
- The one life (freedom, happiness, and mortality)
- Humanist ethics (empathy and the impact of our actions)
- Society (motivations, actions, goals, and responsibility)

You will also find resources to support teaching about a number of other topics connected with humanism and non-religious worldviews.

To view these resources on teaching Humanism please check out the following link

<https://understandinghumanism.org.uk/>

'**Learn Islam** has been setup to help teachers by providing high quality materials related to Islam for free that has been verified, so that teachers are able to teach with more confidence.

Resources covering KS1-4 include:

- PowerPoint slides for Primary and Secondary Schools.
- Worksheets and Quizzes based on the slides to assess knowledge.
- 88 recorded words showing how to pronounce key Islamic terms.

Resources can be found at 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.

<https://muslimlearnerservices.org/>

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 Spring term when there will be more daylight to enjoy. 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

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