

RE Newsletter

Northamptonshire Religious
Education Advisory Service

Spring Term

Happy New Year!

Happy New Year and welcome to the Spring Term newsletter. We hope you had a good Christmas break and are looking forward to the new term.

Agreed Syllabus

At the SACRE meeting held last term it was agreed that a new Agreed Syllabus should be written for Northamptonshire. A joint Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) with Peterborough and Cambridgeshire has now been convened and work has begun on the first stages of the new syllabus. Working parties are busy looking at the framework of the syllabus and assessment across all key stages (this will take into account new practices introduced by the DfE in 2015). If any schools have any good examples of assessment in RE being used in your school please feel free to

contact us. In March the ASC will start to look at the curriculum content. Again, if any schools would like to contribute in any way please contact us using the address at the end of the newsletter.

We would like to remind schools that while the new syllabus is being written they are to carry on using the current syllabus (link available at the end of this section). We will not be asking for any end of year data in the summer as the levelled assessment on the current syllabus is out of date and does not follow current thinking from the DfE on assessment. This does not mean children and students should not be assessed but it should follow any schools policies.

Assessment Guidance from RE online



RE online have published some new and very relevant guidance on assessment in RE. The documentation is very comprehensive and clearly outlines the expectations of children and students as they go through all key stages and the guidance has also been aligned with requirements for the new GCSE's. Please find the link below to RE online.

<http://www.reonline.org.uk/news/new-guidance-assessment-in-re/>

Statutory Provision of RE in Schools

We would like to remind all schools of their statutory duty regarding RE and the school curriculum. RE is an important curriculum subject. It is important in its own right and also makes a unique contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and supports wider community cohesion. The Government is keen to ensure all pupils receive high-quality RE. Although there is not a National Curriculum for RE, all maintained schools must follow the National Curriculum requirements to teach a broad and balanced curriculum, which includes RE. All maintained schools therefore have a statutory duty to teach RE. Academies and free schools are contractually required, through the terms of their funding agreement, to make provision for the teaching of RE.

Further details can be found at the following websites;

<http://www.natre.org.uk/about-re/legal-requirements/>

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/190260/D-CSF-00114-2010.pdf

Training

So far there have been two training events and these have been well received and attended. Please see below for some comments from delegates that took part. The next training event will be on the 16th March at Buckden Village Hall and will be a workshop on 'Exploring Judaism in the Primary Classroom'. To book a place please email your details to:

sacre@northamptonshire.gov.uk

"I found most helpful, the hands on activity. It has given me lots of ideas on how to make RE more creative"

Primary Network Meetings

The next round of primary network meetings will be in early March. A notice will be distributed when the

meetings are live and taking bookings. The focus of these meetings will be 'When and What to Assess' with a focus on how to plan for assessment in RE. We would like those attending to bring along examples of the types of assessment they are using in the post-levels era for both AT1 and AT2.

9th March at Croyland School, Wellingborough, 16.00 – 17.15

Secondary Network Meetings

Secondary network meetings are not always well attended and we have had to cancel previous events. We are going to relaunch these under a new name 'Staying Connected'. The emphasis of these meetings will be sharing good practice, resources and training needs. It can be very useful to talk to other colleagues who are teaching the same courses at both GCSE and A Level especially with the new specifications and exams. A notice will be distributed when the new 'Staying Connected' meetings are taking bookings.

Notices and Events

Understanding Humanism

The British Humanist Association have launched [Understanding Humanism](#), an exciting new website with education resources to help young people learn about Humanism. Designed by teachers for teachers, the website features comprehensive, flexible, and **free** resources for primary and secondary schools.

Following the High Court's ruling that Humanism should be included in RE, *Understanding Humanism* has been designed to provide teachers with the necessary materials to teach high-quality lessons about humanist beliefs and values.

On *Understanding Humanism* you will find lesson plans, presentations, classroom activities, videos, humanist perspectives, and information on CPD opportunities, as well as guidance on how to book a visit from a **free**, local humanist [school speaker](#). The resources will enable students to get to grips with how many non-religious people approach life's fundamental questions, such as '[Why should I be good?](#)', '[Should I be afraid of death?](#)', and '[How can I make my life meaningful?](#)'.

Please visit the website at understandinghumanism.org.uk

Interfaith groups

Northampton Inter Faith Forum (NIFF) is a well-established and useful local website www.niff.org.uk

Wellingborough Inter Faith Group (WIFG) also offers a useful website

www.wellingboroughinterfaith.org

The Sikh Education Service

An Officer from the Sikh Education Service, recognised by SACRE, Gurdwaras and Schools across the UK, is able to visit your school and help deliver Sikh Education Workshops, Assemblies and Teacher training in a cost effective manner. Please email mrharkiratsingh@sky.com or call 07968 143546 for further information.

www.sikheducationservice.co.uk

Contact

SACRE meeting dates

Tuesday 7th March 2017, 16:30 - 18:30

Tuesday 6th June 2017, 16.30 – 18.30

ASC meeting dates (Stanton House, Huntingdon)

Monday 27th February 2017, 17:00-19:00

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