

SUNDERLAND SACRE

Spring Newsletter 2021

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NEW AGREED SYLLABUS UPDATE

The process of adopting a new Sunderland Agreed Syllabus has moved forward during the early months of 2021.

January saw the Agreed Syllabus Conference receive a number of 'Teams' presentations on how we could proceed with a new Agreed Syllabus. Following discussions and voting the Agreed Syllabus Conference recommended to SACRE that the New Sunderland Agreed Syllabus should be facilitated by 'RE Today'. This recommendation now needs to go through the legal processes of Sunderland Local Authority before it can be officially adopted.

The Legal process has begun and we are hopeful that, in our next newsletter, we will be able to share details of the syllabus and launch dates. SACRE is very excited about the New Agreed Syllabus and, in particular, the new direction and modern outlook it will give to the delivery of RE in Sunderland schools.

All LA schools in Sunderland and, indeed, many academies as well, use the 2014 Sunderland Agreed Syllabus in their curriculum planning and, for the time being, should continue to do so (at least during the academic year 2020/21). This is an important document and, with the new Ofsted framework highlighting the 'deep-dive' on curriculum subjects, it is key in providing the building blocks of the three 'I's'.

The Spring Term is here and we see the return of all pupils and classroom teaching in schools. SACRE wishes to acknowledge the hard work and continued commitment you have made to delivering engaging and challenging RE throughout the pandemic. SACRE is here to continue to support you in the delivery of high quality RE within schools and to ensure that pupils receive their entitlement to RE.

NATRE SPIRITED ARTS COMPETITION

NATRE (National Association for the Teachers of Religious Education) runs an annual competition which starts at the beginning of every school year and runs through the spring and summer terms. This is a great opportunity to explore concepts found in RE across the wider curriculum and to express them in imaginative and challenging ways. RE for the modern world!

This year, NATRE have partnered with the Jo Cox Foundation for their “We have far more in common with each other than that which divides us” theme.

Entries can come from individual pupils, pairs/small groups or from whole class/year/school groups. The entries can be submitted in (almost!) any artform your pupils can think of, including: Art (painting, drawing, sketching etc); Poetry; Photography; Dance; Music; Drama or Sculpture.

The five themes for 2021 are:

- God’s good Earth?
- Inspiring!
- Holy Words!
- Where is God?
- Picturing Faith (photography competition)
 - Winning entries will provide a good response to one of the 5 themes and judges will be asking “is it original? Is it well-crafted? And (most importantly!) is it excellent RE?”

All entries must be received before 31 July 2021.

For further details on the competition visit www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/spirited-arts-2021/ or download the pdf at www.natre.org.uk/uploads/Spirited%20Arts/2021/Spirited%20Arts%202021%20competition%20details%20PDF.pdf

Good luck with your entries! Do let us know about them and, of course how you get on!

NORTH EAST RELIGIOUS RESOURCES CENTRE

SACRE is committed to enabling you to deliver high quality RE and, to help you with this, we like to keep you informed about organisations and resources that could aide you in your quest for great RE.

The North East has its own Religious Resources Centre, based across two sites, the nearest of which for Sunderland schools is in Durham. The centre has a loan service, offers training events and is available for advice.

The Director of the resource centre, Karenza Passmore, has provided the information below regarding what is going on in the Spring term that might be of interest to you:

Primary Teachers - NEW Judaism Resources

During LockDowns the RRC's Creative Designer Rachel has been updating our Judaism Topic Boxes and Bags.

"Judaism is such a family orientated faith. Some of our boxes had general Jewish artefacts but my new focus was to create - or change - resources to how they are actually used in everyday life. To show how God is pivotal in everything Jewish people do.

Revised Teacher's Notes were developed for each resource - to help teacher's professional development, their own understanding and to provide information and ideas that can be used when teaching.

The Judaism Topic Boxes and Bags we have to offer are

- Hannukah
- Pesach
- Shabbat
- Worship at home
- Celebrating the Torah
- Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur
- Places of Worship: Synagogue
- Purim

We really hope that you, and your children, enjoy using them!

You can search our online catalogue for other resources here: uk.accessit.online/nrt14/#!dashboard.

To make a booking, visit or discuss other loan options and memberships contact the RRC: 0191 375 0586 or enquiries@resourcescentreonline.co.uk

Secondary RE Teachers – Join the Conversation here!

The Religious Resources Centre regularly runs online Zoom Conversation with key players in the world of secondary RE. You would be welcome to join us for either of the following.

Please email enquiries@resourcescentreonline.co.uk to book your place and, if you miss these, check out www.resourcescentreonline.co.uk for the rest of the series – coming soon!

Making Every RE Lesson Count – 15th April, 2021, 18.00-19.15

Six principles to support religious education teaching - A Conversation@theRRC with Louise Hutton and Dawn Cox on their best-selling new book.

Written for new and experienced practitioners alike, Making Every RE Lesson Count offers 6 down to earth straightforward principles which bring together the latest curriculum developments, evidence-informed practice and practical strategies for use in the RE classroom.

Dawn and Louise want to enable teachers to improve their students' conceptual and contextual understanding of the topics and themes explored across the breadth of the RE curriculum. Bring your questions and join us for a lively discussion!

Jesus Christ, Learning Teacher – 4th May 2021, 18.00-19.15

A Conversation@theRRC with Mark Chater

Many teachers know Mark from his intimate connection to RE through Ofsted, Culham St Gabriel's and a host of other RE Initiatives. Currently he is an editor of the Reforming RE blog series and Professor of Practice at the University of Cumbria.

In this conversation Mark will discuss his new book on Jesus – a work that looks at Jesus through the eyes of both education and faith. He hopes his book will enable Christian teachers to acknowledge and "own an imagination which enables them to see scripture and professional experience in fresh ways. Instead of placing Jesus the teacher on a pedestal, impossible and remote, we can come closer to him, and he to us".

If you are a Christian teacher or one who would like to understand some of the issues Mark is trying to explore then do join him for a whirlwind tour of his ideas and some chat around why he thinks they matter.

Thanks Karenza. Looks like there's a lot going on and you can all find out more at <https://www.resourcescentreonline.co.uk/>

PRIMARY CPD

TogetherforChildren offers CPD sessions for Primary RE. Courses that have taken place this academic year included afternoon sessions for Primary RE Leads, covering topics such as Forming your RE intent; Working with colleagues; Implementation through action planning; and Dealing with controversial issues. In addition, there have been two twilight sessions on the teaching of Christianity and Islam. These have all been well attended and well received and we thank all who have participated.

It is not too late to sign up for the following:

23.6.2021, 4 - 5pm Twilight

'Creating Communities of Enquiry'

12.7.2021, 1.30 - 3.30pm session

'How to monitor progress: Managing whole school assessment'.

AND FINALLY...

All of us involved in teaching RE are acutely aware of the number of demands we face and how busy life gets! But we want to keep the work of SACRE relevant to everyone and to take every chance to share experiences (good and less so), as well as to celebrate your hard-won successes as widely as possible.

So, even though we know it takes time and even though we know how hard you're all already working, PLEASE do keep in touch! Let us know what you have found particularly useful of what we are sharing and what you have been doing that might helpfully be shared with others. You can always reach us by emailing Paul at paul.wood@sunderland.gov.uk.

We are REALLY looking forward to your feedback and news :-)