

DONCASTER SACRE

**STANDING ADVISORY
COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION**

ANNUAL REPORT

2014 - 2015

To:

All SACRE Members

Department for Education ministers@education.gsi.gov.uk

NASACRE memsec@nasacre.org.uk

The Local Authority (e.g. portfolio holder for children's services, director of children's services)

All schools within the LA for which SACRE is responsible and other schools within SACRE's geographical area

Key partners including teacher training institutions, libraries and councillors

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1. Chair's Introduction, rationale, and context

Chair's introduction

I am pleased to introduce the SACRE Annual Report on behalf of Doncaster SACRE. The report reflects the different strands of work the SACRE has overseen in a changing educational scene, which continues to settle under structural and curriculum changes. The SACRE continues to provide advice and support to the wide variety of educational institutions and the Principal Authority on Religious Education and collective worship. The committee continues to monitor the uptake of religious education in as far as published information allows. Collectively we have responded to the DfE's letter regarding a review of statutory duties of SACRE and look forward to putting forward our views in due course. We continue to seek innovation in promoting interfaith work throughout the Borough to encourage mutual understanding in a world where sadly intolerance and conflict simmer. This is, to me as Chair, our strength and relevance.

Kevin Rodgers
Chair of SACRE

Rationale

"SACREs have responsibility for advising a Local Authority (LA) on its schools.

For Religious Education (RE), SACRE advises community, voluntary, controlled and Trust and Foundation schools without a religious designation.

For Collective Worship SACRE advises the LA on community, Trust and Foundation schools without a religious designation.

SACRE's have a duty to publish an annual report. The main purpose of the annual report is to hold the LA to account, by informing the Secretary of State and key partners what advice SACRE gave the LA during the year and how that was responded to. This includes advice on RE and Collective Worship in those schools for which the LA has responsibility." (NASACRE – National Association of SACREs)

Context

Doncaster is a small LA with 17 secondary academies, one free school, almost a 100 primary schools (21 of these are now academies) and 5 special schools. Doncaster SACRE is keen to develop positive partnerships with all schools within SACRE's geographical area, including academies and free schools.

Information taken from the 2011 Census showed that 65.9% of people identified themselves as being Christian within the Doncaster Local Authority. The next largest faith group identified was Muslim at 1.7%. The other faith groups were identified as Sikh at 0.4%, Hindu at 0.3%, Buddhist at 0.2%, Jewish 0.0%, and people following other religions 0.3%. Doncaster figures mirror the national trend since 2001 of an increase in the number of people specifying that they hold no religious belief, a decrease in the number of people who profess to follow Christianity, and an increase in the numbers of people following other religions.

The 2013 Agreed Syllabus is an inclusive syllabus, recognising that whilst many pupils come from religious backgrounds, others may have no attachment to religious beliefs and practices. The syllabus provides a good range of opportunities for students to study Christianity, other faith traditions, and secular philosophies such as humanism. In this way, the religious education curriculum is broad and balanced, and all pupils have an opportunity to share their own beliefs, viewpoints and ideas.

Information about SACRE can be accessed from the Education Standards and Effectiveness page of the Doncaster Council website. Follow the links to the 2013 Agreed Syllabus and Guidance document. All schools within SACRE's geographical area, including academies and free schools, are warmly invited to use the agreed syllabus and to access all the support services which promote high quality religious education and collective worship in Doncaster.

The revised format for this years' annual report has been influenced by the recommended template for Annual Reports on the NASACRE website. http://www.nasacre.org.uk/file/nasacre/SACRE_Annual_Reports_necessary_desir.pdf

2. Advice to statutory bodies

Local Authority

SACRE has expressed concern about recent reports from the RE professional associations that government education policy has been detrimental to the provision and quality of RE at KS4, given that it is a statutory entitlement for every student. They asked the local authority what information they could provide to determine the extent to which this was a feature of the RE provision at KS4 in Doncaster.

The analysis of the 2015 KS4 examination results has provided some information about this. In addition, the RE Adviser resolved to analyse all Doncaster Academy Ofsted reports for the academic year 2014-15, as well as look at evidence about RE provision on the relevant academy websites to gain an additional insight. This would be reported to SACRE at the autumn 2015 meeting.

In the meantime, SACRE requested that the RE Adviser meet with the Portfolio Holder on the Council for Children, Young People and Schools (a SACRE representative) to explore the opportunities for discussing RE provision with the secondary academies and to offer support where appropriate. This meeting was scheduled for the autumn term 2015.

Schools

The SACRE area of the Doncaster Council website provides advice and support for teachers. The SACRE Annual Report 2012-13 and information for schools on the statutory requirement for Collective Worship have been added this year.

The RE Adviser produces an e newsletter each term to advise schools on behalf of the SACRE. The SACRE e- newsletter on RE and Collective Worship keeps school leaders, governors and RE teachers regularly informed about national and local developments which support the provision of quality RE and collective worship, including local faith contacts, new resources, practical teaching ideas, and CPD training opportunities. An archive of newsletters is featured on the SACRE section of the Doncaster Council website (Appendix 3)

SACRE has advised schools to actively participate in professional consultations to do with standards i.e. the proposals for reforming A level and GCSE Religious Studies.

SACRE requested that the RE Adviser create an up to date and comprehensive directory of local faith group contacts for the use of all schools in its geographical area. Schools have been provided with a web link to the Doncaster CVS Voluntary Sector Directory which has a comprehensive list of local faith contacts.

Government or other statutory bodies

Doncaster SACRE has written to Lord Nash, the Minister responsible for faith schools, in response to his letter dated 7th January 2015. They advised Lord Nash that they welcomed the proposal that the DfE intends to commission a review of SACRE annual reports – an important step in monitoring the work and effectiveness of SACREs and the support that SACREs receive from their Local Authorities.

The SACRE asked Lord Nash how the DfE proposed to hold local authorities to account where there were gaps in their support for SACREs, but more positively suggested that the DfE consider the practical level of support they provide for local authorities in fulfilling their statutory duties to their SACREs. SACRE indicated that they would appreciate further advice from the DfE on the nature of the relationship that it should have with Academies and Free Schools in the light of the Academies Commission Report 2013.

Finally, Doncaster SACRE added its voice to that of the National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE) in calling upon the government to initiate an investigation into the level of provision for Religious Education at Key Stage 4 in England, and to take urgent action to ensure that students leave school with an appropriate level of religious literacy to equip them for life in a diverse modern society. Doncaster SACRE argued this needed urgent attention in the light of recent education policy which had impacted adversely on RE provision at Key Stage 4 in many schools and academies.

3. Standards and quality of provision of RE

Public examinations

The national picture from the Religious Education Council (REC):

The number of pupils in England and Wales taking GCSE Religious Studies full course has risen again this year, up 5.3% against 2014 to 283,756. This echoes the increase in A Level entries, which are up 6.5% this year compared with 2014.

However the removal of short courses from Department for Education (DfE) performance tables is having a serious and negative impact on the total number of pupils taking RS. The findings of the REC in 2015 continue to emphasise that government education policy in England is having an adverse effect on RE GCSE entries in England compared to Wales (where the EBacc and the average point score at GCSE have not been adopted as school performance measures).

The damage to take-up of the RS GCSE short course comes at a time when RS is otherwise a subject growing in popularity and when the government stresses the importance for young people to have knowledge and understanding of religions and non-religious beliefs. In addition, reforms to

GCSE RS make it an increasingly attractive and rigorous subject, while increasing numbers of pupils are carrying RS on to A-level.

The key outcomes for Religious Education in England and Wales at KS4 in 2015 are as follows:

There were 283,756 entries for the full course in GCSE RS, a rise of 5.3% from 2014 (269,494)

There were 86,679 entries for the short course in GCSE RS, a decline of 26.8% from 2014 (118,481)

There were 370,435 entries for GCSE RS (combined short and full courses), a decline of 4.5% from 2014 (387,915)

In 2014 there were 1,197 schools making no entries for any RS qualification; a rise from 268 in 2010.

29.6% of entries for the full course in GCSE RS were awarded an A or an A*
11.8% of entries for the short course in GCSE RS were awarded an A or an A*

In England GCSE RS short course entries have fallen from 211,269 in 2012 to 68,890 in 2015 (-67.3%). This is a dramatic decline over four years compared to Wales where GCSE RS short course entries have declined only slightly from 19,182 in 2012 to 17,789 in 2015 (-7.3%).

In England GCSE RS full course entries have increased from 216,182 in 2012 to 271,917 in 2015 (by 25.7%), compared to a lesser increase of 13.7% in Wales over the same period (from 10,409 in 2012 to 11,839 in 2015).

Overall, compared with 2012, 85,000 more pupils in England will complete key stage 4 without having gained a qualification in Religious Studies (a drop of 20.3%). The decline in take-up is a cause for concern, as echoed in research by the National Association of Teachers of RE (published in November 2013) that found that “a third of community schools and over a third of academies without a religious character are still failing to meet their legal or contractual agreements to provide religious education for this key age group.”

On a much more positive note, the REC reported that entries nationally for A level RS are rising faster than for any other arts, humanities or social science subjects. “The contextual evidence shows the growing status of RS as a subject for Higher Education entry”.

Doncaster GCSE entries 2015:

Short course entries have fallen dramatically. Entries in 2013 and 2014 remained relatively stable – 873 entries in both years, from 10 and 9 schools respectively. In 2015 only 383 students were entered from 7 schools, which means that entries have more than halved since 2014.

Full course entries are up by 46% on 2013 where GCSE RS full course entries in England have increased from 216,182 in 2012 to 271,917 in 2015 (by 25.7%).

Using RAISEonline, entry as a percentage of cohort for full GCSE is 32.3% compared to a national average of 45.1%. This compares to 26.5% and 42.7% in 2014 and 21.2% and 36.7% in 2013 for the same measures respectively.

Doncaster AS and A Level entries 2015:

Entries for the AS course increased slightly. The number of entries for the A Level course in the Doncaster local authority is up by 35% to 58.

Doncaster standards in public examinations 2015

For GCSE RS full course attainment in A*–C and A*–A measures has improved, with the gap to National figures narrowing.

At AS level the percentage of students achieving A*–E increased by 6.6 percentage points, but those achieving A or A* grades dropped by 3.5 percentage points on the previous year.

At A level, while the percentage of students passing the subject dropped slightly, the proportion of students achieving an A*–C grade increased by nearly 15 percentage points and the proportion of students achieving an A or A* increased by 4.4 percentage points.

Attainment in RE not covered by public examination

The attainment targets (as outlined in the 8-level scale) in the agreed syllabus provide a standards framework for teachers to use in their planning and target setting. Traditionally, Ofsted reports do not make reference to standards in RE in key stages 1-3.

Standards in primary schools and at Key Stage 3:

There is no LA strategy for collecting evidence on standards in primary schools or at Key Stage 3. Standards in schools for all subjects, including RE, are viewed by the LA as a matter for the leadership team in each school to monitor and to address.

LA professional development to support standards in RE in schools

The RE Adviser organised a number of professional development opportunities for all schools in the Doncaster area, including academies and free schools.

The RE Network event held at St George's Minster on 21 January 2015 proved to be a highly successful and productive event. One teacher reported: "Very interesting tour and guides. Lots of ideas to follow up. Will definitely make use of this fabulous resource on our doorstep" (Hexthorpe Primary)

The RE network event held at St Peter's in Chains RC church in June 2015 was similarly well received. The RE co-ordinator at Intake primary school said:

“Our visit to St. Peter in Chains was fascinating and inspirational. The chance to forge a link with such an amazing place and a knowledgeable and inspirational faith leader as found in Father Gus is an opportunity in a million. To also have the opportunity to network and share resources with like-minded colleagues is truly invaluable. Thank you so much.”

At the Governor Forum in April 2015, the RE Adviser provided two workshop events on the importance of Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSCD). This drew upon the findings of the Schools with Soul Report from the RSA Action and Research Centre, and made links with the 2015 Ofsted Framework, Fundamental British Values, and evidence about SMSC in Doncaster schools taken from Ofsted reports sampled in 2013-4. Twenty six governors attended the training. The feedback from one parent governor whose school was inspected the week following the workshop was that it had been immensely useful.

The quality of RE provision in schools

No issues have been reported about the quality of RE provision in schools this year. Ofsted reports sampled have provided no evidence about the quality of RE provision. There is no LA strategy for collecting evidence about the quality of RE provision except through the monitoring of examination results. Quality assurance is devolved to the leadership team in each school to monitor and address (as is the case for the other subjects of the curriculum).

Withdrawal from RE

The RE adviser responded to one enquiry from a school about a parental request about withdrawing a pupil from RE (and the daily act of collective worship). As part of the advice about withdrawal from RE the school was directed to the relevant sections of the 2013 Agreed Syllabus and the Guidance Material document which accompanies the syllabus. This includes a checklist about managing the right of withdrawal. As part of the advice on withdrawal from Collective Worship the school was referred to the relevant sections of Circular 1/94. These documents can be found on the SACRE section of the Doncaster Council website.

Complaints about RE: compliance and time allocation for RE

Considering the demands of the Local Agreed Syllabus, the Agreed Syllabus Conference strongly recommends that schools dedicate a minimum of 5% curriculum time for the teaching of clearly identifiable RE.

It is difficult to monitor compliance in statutory RE provision except through complaints. SACRE has received no formal complaints about compliance in community schools this year.

However, the analysis of Ofsted reports for five secondary academies inspected in 2014-15 formally identified one concern with regards to the statutory duty to provide RE for every student, according to academy funding agreements. In one secondary academy, Ofsted described non-compliance in

RE at Key Stage 4, but did not highlight the significance of this and did not make it an action point for the academy.

“Students report that they do learn about other cultures and religions, but it is mainly restricted to their learning in religious studies, which some students do not study after Year 9” (Ofsted Report May 2015)

The SACRE discussed the quality of Ofsted inspections in relation to statutory compliance for Religious Education provision. Concerns were raised about whether inspections were looking in depth into compliance and what actions were taken where gaps were identified.

An analysis of the websites of the same academies (to try to gather information about the RE provision described in their curriculums) also indicated possible difficulties in provision and compliance. It is however difficult to get an accurate picture of compliance issues from this sort of snapshot information.

The issue of SACRE’s relationship with academies was raised again at the 2015 NASACRE AGM. In addition, given the responsibilities that local authorities have for children and young people – which places local authorities as advocates for a broad and balanced curriculum, including RE, which is the only curriculum responsibility that local authorities have – what should an LA be doing to support academies with their statutory responsibility for RE? Greater acknowledgement of the complexity of these arrangements by the DfE would be appreciated, and also the difficulties and challenges these bring with them.

4. Agreed Syllabus

The 2013 Doncaster Agreed Syllabus is located on the SACRE section of the Doncaster Council website, together with a separate Guidance Material document to support subject managers and class teachers in their use of the syllabus.

The process for review of the 2013 Agreed Syllabus is due to commence in September 2016 if a new syllabus is to be launched by September 2018. Past experience has demonstrated that at least one year needs to be allocated to consultation, review and writing, and one year needs to be allocated to bringing the reviewed syllabus to publication, to plan a launch event, and to prepare and deliver training (introduce, embed, consolidate) for teachers.

An Agreed Syllabus Conference therefore needs to be planned for the academic year 2016-17.

The RE Review Report 2013 published by the Religious Education Council produced a new non-statutory curriculum framework for RE in England which is in line with developments in the revised National Curriculum. The future review of the agreed syllabus should take account of this new framework, and

in the meantime Doncaster SACRE will monitor closely how other LAs use this document in their syllabus development.

5. Collective Worship

Compliance with the statutory requirement

Community schools (and academies and free schools in accordance with their funding agreements, trust deeds or charters) have a legal duty to provide a daily act of collective worship for all pupils not withdrawn by their parents.

The revised 2013 Agreed Syllabus makes specific reference to the intrinsic value of collective worship, but reinforces the statutory distinction between it and RE, and the time that should be set aside for both:

“RE and collective worship both contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils in their distinctive ways. However, the curriculum time allocation for RE does not include time set aside for daily collective worship, which is a separate school activity”.

Of the Ofsted inspections reports sampled this year, none have indicated a failure to comply with the statutory requirements for Collective Worship.

Quality of Collective Worship

To support schools in developing the quality of their collective worship provision and practice, SACRE provides advice and guidance through the SACRE e newsletters. The spring 2015 e newsletter included information and advice about the excellent service provided by the Open the Book volunteer teams. They organise themed and dramatized storytelling of Bible stories at no charge to primary schools. Using drama, mime, props, costume – and even the children and staff themselves – they present Bible stories in lively and informative ways

In addition schools were also informed about the RE Team who provide assemblies as well as RE lessons and Godly Play. They currently work in several schools in Doncaster.

No issues have been reported about the quality of collective worship provision in schools this year. The Ofsted reports sampled have provided no evidence about this. There is no LA strategy for collecting evidence about the quality of collective worship provision. Quality assurance is devolved to the leadership team in each school to monitor and address.

Determinations

SACRE has a statutory role in considering and granting determinations. Determinations are made when a school, on behalf of a number of parents, requests Collective Worship other than that set down in statute i.e. of a wholly

or mainly broadly Christian character, though not distinctive of any particular Christian denomination.

There have been no applications for determinations in Collective Worship this year.

Complaints about collective worship

There have been no formal complaints about Collective Worship this year.

6. Management of SACRE

Membership (Appendix 1)

SACRE strives for a broad membership base in line with legal requirements. The SACRE Constitution specifies that the SACRE review the composition and attendance of each committee annually (at the beginning of each academic year).

There are two vacancies to fill on Committee A. Representation on Committee B has been halved so numbers need to be strengthened.

Representation and attendance on Committee C continues to be a cause for concern. The traditional route of recruiting new representatives through the teacher unions has not yielded results. The LA has therefore adopted a different strategy of sending a letter direct to schools encouraging expressions of interest. Initially at least there was a small response from four teachers (including teachers from academies). However, due to school commitments only one of these teachers has managed to attend at one SACRE meeting. Teachers say that gaining release time during the school day is an issue. It is hoped that a revised start time for future SACRE meetings next year (4.30pm) will improve attendance from members of Committee C.

Attendance at SACRE (Appendix 2)

The full SACRE has met on three occasions at The Mary Woollett Centre in Doncaster.

Dates: 24th November 2014
24th March 2015
29th June 2015

All meetings have been quorate, but sometimes only because of the presence of the RE Adviser who is also an NUT representative on Committee C. The annual review of attendance 2014-15 highlighted the need to follow up and clarify the position of those members who had not been able to attend any meetings during the academic year.

Training for SACRE

New members to SACRE are supported by materials produced by NASACRE: "So you're joining your local SACRE" - a handbook for SACRE members. Two local publications, the Doncaster SACRE Code of Conduct and the Doncaster SACRE Constitution, provide new members with appropriate advice about the context of their new role.

The SACRE consultant has been in attendance at every meeting this year to update members on national and local developments in RE and the wider curriculum as applicable. SACRE members are provided with an analysis of the annual Religious Studies examination results by a senior LA officer.

The LA ensures that SACRE members receive the regular Briefing mailings from NASACRE. Members are provided with the username and password required to access the e-version of the mailings in detail. They keep members informed about RE developments and provide a basis for agenda setting, discussion and action at SACRE meetings.

SACRE Self-Evaluation: this process identified three action points:
To arrange to periodically rotate the nomination to the Chair across the four committees
To develop strategies for engaging with academies – beginning with encouraging representation at SACRE meetings
To establish links between the SACRE and the Youth Council

Administration of and professional support for SACRE

SACRE is a statutory body that meets in public. Its meetings are part of the public record. The LA provides funding for SACRE from the Children and Young People's Services' budget for:

- a dedicated Clerk to support the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
- dedicated support and advice from the SACRE adviser
- essential administration costs

7. SACRE's contribution to the wider Local Authority agenda

Identify what SACRE has contributed to other agendas / the LA's public sector equality duty

Doncaster SACRE is committed to promoting and supporting high quality religious education and collective worship. To this end, it aims to develop a positive working relationship with all schools in its geographical area, including academies and free schools, and to encourage teachers of RE to collaborate and work in partnership.

Members from Doncaster SACRE have been involved in supporting EMTAS (the Ethnic, Minority Traveller Achievement Service) in developing a LA Cultural Awareness Booklet. The key areas of enquiry included Communication, School Admissions, Attendance, Equalities/Inclusion/SMSC,

Parental/Community Involvement, Collective Worship, Dress Standards, Dietary Requirements, Curriculum and School Events.

The RE Adviser attended the CTSY (Churches Together across South Yorkshire) AGM at St Peters in Chains RC Church on 25 April 2015, and updated the SACRE on the events of this meeting.

The SACRE member representing Doncaster Interfaith provided a very interesting presentation on his involvement with students in Refugee Week. This inspired a discussion about the possibility of a similar educational event sponsored by SACRE in the future.

The Chair of SACRE agreed to contact the Youth Council to see if they would be interested in developing links with SACRE.

SACRE continues to have established links with the wider RE community such as NASACRE (the National Association of SACREs), AREIAC and RE Today services. The SACRE consultant is a member of AREIAC (the Association of RE advisers, inspectors and consultants). This year members responded to the 2014 NASACRE survey questions as a group. The RE Adviser submitted the responses to NASACRE on their behalf. In addition, a representative from Doncaster SACRE attended the NASACRE AGM on the 21st May 2015, providing a detailed report of the day to the SACRE.

On behalf of Doncaster SACRE the member representing the Balby (Doncaster) Society of Friends submitted a detailed proposal for a Westhill / NASACRE Project Award (based on the idea of developing a Doncaster Heritage Trail of religious places of interest). Although on this occasion the submission was unsuccessful, the idea has such merits that the SACRE received encouragement to re-work the proposal for a future application.

What SACRE has done to support schools through events and training

The RE Adviser co-ordinated the arrangements for the SACRE endorsement of and LA support for, the South Yorkshire RE Professional Development Day held on the 29th January 2015 in Rotherham. The Better RE Conference focused on providing practical inspiration for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through RE. It was a conference endorsed by four SACREs - Doncaster, Rotherham, Sheffield and Bradford. Twenty six Doncaster teachers signed up for this conference.

Feedback from the day was overwhelmingly positive - 90% of teachers rated it excellent. It focused on creativity, thoughtfulness, values and achievement in RE, with plenty of practical activities for teachers to take back to schools. As a result, Doncaster SACRE has agreed to endorse and support a second conference entitled "Inspiring RE" planned for 4th March 2016, and the LA has once again agreed to use its communication resources to advertise this to schools.

Doncaster SACRE has always promoted the merits of the Farmington Fellowship Award scheme at the Farmington Institute, Harris Manchester College, Oxford. The RE Adviser is a Farmington Fellow. This year a teacher

from a Doncaster secondary academy was awarded a Fellowship and has been invited to present their research at the 2015 autumn term SACRE meeting.

Links to broader community initiatives

The diversity of the SACRE membership ensures that there are appropriate channels of communication between the SACRE and the constituent faith and cultural groups in the local area. SACRE members have the opportunity to represent to SACRE the interests and concerns of their faith communities, and also keep their faith communities informed about the work of SACRE. Some SACRE members are also members of the College Chaplaincy Group, and other SACRE members are active members of the local Interfaith Group. Their knowledge and experience support the work of SACRE

The Agreed Syllabus reflects the diversity of faiths not only in the local area but nationally. It emphasises the importance of RE in promoting social, racial, and religious harmony and thus is an important local authority document promoting community cohesion.

8. Summary

SACRE is concerned about the potential dangers at KS4 of “the opening up of a statutory compliance gap, with fewer students getting their RE entitlements” (Lat Blaylock). It is concerned that in its report to a school or academy, Ofsted can describe non-compliance with regards to students’ statutory entitlement to RE, but not highlight the significance of this or require a school to take action to remedy the situation.

With the dramatically changed educational landscape in the last few years, a key action point arising from this report is for the local authority to provide SACRE with a clear picture of the number of schools their advice applies to, and the number of pupils these schools educate (to be updated annually).

It has been a busy year for SACRE, with increasingly packed agendas to address. The enthusiasm of our SACRE representatives is to be commended.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Membership of SACRE 2014-15

Appendix 2: Attendance of SACRE 2014-15

Appendix 3: SACRE RE and Collective Worship e-newsletters
(Autumn 2014; Spring 2015; Summer 2015)

Membership of the Doncaster SACRE 2014-2015

Committee A (Christian and other Religious denominations)

Vacancy	Buddhist
J Gessler	Jewish
Vacancy	Hindu/Buddhist
S Norburn	Humanist (co-opted)
Vacancy	Roman Catholic
R Iball	Methodist
J Stephenson	Baptist
S Syed	Muslim
B Tiemoori	Baha'i
B Gillham	Balby (Doncaster) Society of Friends
Rev T McCreedy	Doncaster Interfaith
P Kaur	Sikh

Committee B (The Church of England)

K Scovell
M McGuigan
2 x Vacancy

Committee C (Teachers' Associations)

P Cassidy	National Union of Teachers
N Walker	Association of Teachers and Lecturers
M Williams	Association of Teachers and Lecturers
2 x Vacancy	National Association of Schoolmaster/Union of Women Teachers
1 x Vacancy	National Union of Teachers
1 x Vacancy	National Association of Headteachers

Committee D (Local Authority Representative)

Councillor N Fennelly (new member May 2015)
Councillor S Knowles
Councillor K Rodgers
Councillor J Hart (new member May 2015)
Councillor S Bolton (retired member May 2015)
Councillor P Schofield (retired member May 2015)

Name	Faith Group/Association	25-Nov-14	24-Mar-15	29-Jun-15
Committee A Members (Christian & other religious denominations)				
Vacant	Buddhist			
Gessler J	Jewish	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vacant	Hindu/Buddhist			
Norburn S	Humanist (co-opted)	Apologies	Apologies	Apologies
Vacant	Roman Catholic			
Moreland J		No apologies	No apologies	No apologies
Iball R	Methodist	Yes	Yes	Yes
Stephenson J	Baptist	Apologies	Yes	Apologies
Syed S	Muslim	Yes	Apologies	Apologies
Teimoori B	Baha'i	Apologies	Yes	Yes
Gillham B	Balby (Doncaster) Society of Friends	Yes	Apologies	Yes
McCready T Rev	Doncaster Interfaith	Apologies	Yes	No apologies
Pahani Kaur	Sikh	Yes	Yes	Apologies
Committee B (The Church of England)				
Scovell K		Apologies	Apologies	Yes
McGuigan M		Yes	Yes	Yes

Committee C (Teachers' Associations)				
2 x Vacancy	National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers			
Cassidy P	National Union of Teachers	Yes	Yes	Yes
Vacancy	National Union of Teachers			
Walker N	Association of Teachers and Lecturers	Yes	Apologies	Apologies
Vacancy	National Association of Headteachers			
Williams M	Association of Teachers Lecturers	Apologies	Apologies	No apologies
Committee D (Local Authority)				
Current members				
Councillor Fennelly N				Yes
Councillor Knowles S		Yes	Apologies	Yes
Councillor Rodgers K		Yes	Yes	Apologies
Councillor J Hart				No apologies
Previous members				
Councillor Bolton S		Yes	No apologies	
Councillor Schofield P		Apologies	Apologies (Retiring)	

Total:

Yes: 11

Apologies: 7

No apologies: 1

Quorate

Total:

Yes: 9

Apologies: 8

No apologies: 2

Quorate

Total:

Yes: 10

Apologies: 6

No apologies: 4

Quorate

**THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP
E-NEWSLETTER**

**From the Doncaster SACRE
(Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education)**

Autumn 2014

Welcome to this term's edition of the Doncaster SACRE e-newsletter. Doncaster SACRE aims to support RE and Collective Worship in all schools by providing local and national updates, advice about best practice, and information about new resources.

Back copies of the e-newsletters can be found on the SACRE section of the Doncaster Council website (they contain lots of useful resource web links). Go to www.doncaster.gov.uk/lasre and then click on the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education link in the Main Section menu. The e-newsletters appear under the Documents menu on this second page.

You will probably have to copy and paste the web links into your web browser.

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- **Catholic RE**
- **Schools of Sanctuary**
- **New Resources on Truetube :**
 - **What is Jihad?**
 - **In the Beginning**
- **Langar: Swapping the Food Bank for the Temple**
- **New Philosophy and Religion Videos**
- **Farmington Fellowships 2015**
- **RE Quality Mark (REQM)**
- **Dates for your Diary: Religious Festivals 2014**

LOCAL UPDATES:

BETTER RE CONFERENCE IN SOUTH YORKSHIRE 29 JAN 2015

Doncaster SACRE is pleased to support this South Yorkshire Professional Development Day for RE teachers. It is a unique opportunity for teachers to gain practical inspiration for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through RE. Lat Blaylock from RE Today is one of the key speakers in what promises to be a wonderful day of professional development. Information about this conference will be sent to your school by Doncaster LA. If you have missed it, then go to: <http://www.retoday.org.uk/courses/better-re>

DONCASTER MINSTER NETWORK MEETING 21 JAN 2015 (Event 5034)

Look out for information about this RE Network event which aims to explore the potential of Doncaster Minster as a powerful teaching and learning resource in RE. Details of this event should be sent to schools shortly. If you have missed them and want to know more, contact Professional Learning: professionallearning@doncaster.gov.uk

LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM (LOtC)

In RE, LOtC experiences provide opportunities for:

- Engagement with faith communities
- Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development
- Visits to places of worship and other spaces, both religious and non-religious
- Young people to ask big questions or reflect

The RE Council has added a new section to its website. The Learning Outside the Classroom area brings together a series of RE trails (with maps and a toolkit to help you devise your own) and Sacred Space case studies.

You will find this web resource invaluable in planning your own visits to places of local religious interest

<http://religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/educators/projects/learning-outside-the-classroom>

NEW ON THE DONCASTER SACRE WEBPAGE

You can now locate advice about collective worship on this page of the Doncaster Council website. The 2012-13 SACRE Annual Report is available to read in the Documents menu on this page. Go to:

http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/sections/educationandlearning/teacherandschoolinformation/Standing_Advisory_Council_for_Religious_Education/index.aspx

VISITS TO THE LOCAL MOSQUE AND GURDWARA

If you want to plan a school visit to the local gurdwara then contact Surat Singh on 07976432586.

If you want to plan a school visit to the local mosque then we can now supply you with the following two contacts:

- Shaheed Syed (Muslim representative on the SACRE) by e-mail at is.doncaster@gmail.com
- Imaam Zakaria, Doncaster Jamai Mosque at www.doncastermosque.co.uk or imaam@doncastermosque.co.uk

NATIONAL UPDATES:

SMSCD – SCHOOLS WITH SOUL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This recent report makes interesting reading. Look at the executive summary which provides models for identifying SMSC's place and value in school and a range of delivery channels at school level. All in two simple diagrams! It makes 9 key recommendations. To download the executive summary go to:

<http://www.thersa.org/action-research-centre/learning,-cognition-and-creativity/education/reports-and-events/reports/schools-with-soul>

GCSE AND A LEVEL RESULTS 2014

The RE Council and NATRE have carried out a very useful analysis of A Level and GCSE RS results.

Their findings for A level indicate the subject "is great preparation for university". Go to:

<http://religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/educators/news/2014-08-14/religious-studies-a-level-entries-prove-subject-is-great-preparation-for-university>

With regards to GCSE they suggest that "urgent action" is needed to curb the decline in the numbers entered for RS. Go to:

<http://religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/educators/news/2014-08-21/urgent-action-needed-to-curb-gcse-decline>

PROGRESS 8: MAKING THE CASE FOR GCSE FULL COURSE (FOR ALL?) IN YOUR SCHOOL

This is an interesting article from NATRE. Go to:

<http://www.natre.org.uk/uploads/Free%20Resources/Progress%208%20A%20case%20for%20GCSE%20RS%20full%20course%20for%20all.pdf>

DfE TEACHER STANDARDS 2013: AN RE EXEMPLIFICATION

This RE exemplification is designed as a support tool to help individuals interpret the DfE standards in relation to RE. It is in no sense statutory but is intended as guidance for self-audit or professional development. The exemplification material illustrates the particular RE applications, and also refers to further helpful sources of information such as the RE Council's Code of Conduct and Practice for teachers of RE, as well as the RE Quality Mark criteria. It has been produced jointly by the NATRE and the REC. Go to:

http://religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/media/file/DFE_Teacher_standards_2013.pdf

OfSTED INSPECTIONS: WHAT THEY DO AND DON'T EXPECT IN BRIEF

Go to:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/inspection--forms-and-guides/o/Ofsted%20inspections%20-%20clarification%20for%20schools.pdf>

GENERAL:

RE and WORLD WAR 1

Lat Blaylock has worked with the new Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales on 3 planned units of work which connect to the Great War 1914-18. They are for 6-8 years, 8-11 years, and 11-14s. The plans and resources are being made freely available.

<http://www.westyorkshiredales.anglican.org/ww1REresourcesforschools>

2014 INTERFAITH WEEK 16-22 NOVEMBER

Have a look at the recent report from the Interfaith Network entitled Celebrating 2013 and Planning for 2014, which contains among other things some great tips and ideas for Interfaith Week this year. <http://www.interfaithweek.org/images/stories/pdfs/ifw-report-2013-14.pdf> and <http://www.interfaithweek.org/>

PRAYER SPACES IN SCHOOLS

This is an interesting initiative which offers a new approach for offering opportunities for spiritual development in schools. Based on a broadly Christian perspective, the concept might nevertheless be adapted more widely. It provides a range of flexible resources which are creative and interactive. Find out more and go to:

<http://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/home>

SPIRITED ARTS

Want to plan spiritual and creative activities in your classroom? For some great ideas, take a look at the winning entries in the annual Spirited Arts competition on the RE Today website. You might even be inspired to enter your students for this year's competition! Go to: <http://www.retoday.org.uk/news/2014-spirited-arts-gallery-is-now-live>

TACKLING CONTROVERSIAL AND CONTENTIOUS ISSUES IN RE

Take a look at the Resilience (England) website. Section 4 looks at a selection of contentious issues that can provoke violent extremism

<http://resilience-england.recouncil.org.uk/gateways/section-4>

CAN A RELIGION ACCEPT OTHER FAITHS AS TRUE?

A BBC web resource on the Baha'i religion:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/zpcfyrd#zqfx6sg>

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY (HMD) 27 January 2015

The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2015 is “Keep the Memory Alive”.

27 January 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. 2015 will also be the 20th anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica, Bosnia. Therefore it is particularly appropriate that the theme for this major anniversary focuses on memory. Go to the Holocaust Memorial Trust website which has resources to help you plan your HMD activity: <http://hmd.org.uk/page/resources-your-activity>

THE CHILDREN OF THE HOLOCAUST

Check out the animated clip on the BBC website of Suzanne’s story – hiding from the Nazis in occupied France. This website has a wealth of interesting material <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0201k2d>

BETH SHALOM, THE HOLOCAUST CENTRE

Don’t forget this (relatively) local resource for your teaching on the Holocaust. For more information go to:

<http://holocaustcentre.net/>

CHALLENGING PREJUDICE

The Anne Frank Trust aims to share Anne’s story in order to encourage people to challenge prejudice, embrace values of respect and responsibility towards others, and promote pro-social behaviour. Their website can be found at <http://www.annefrank.org.uk/>

CATHOLIC RE

Catholic RE source is a newly launched website *for* catholic teachers produced *by* catholic teachers. A great idea, but early days! The success of the website will depend on interested individuals joining in to help it grow and develop. Worth a look, and if you are able to make a contribution even better! Go to

<https://sites.google.com/site/catholicresourcesite/>

SCHOOLS OF SANCTUARY

A new national resource pack has been launched which contains useful information about why and how schools can become Schools of Sanctuary, with teaching ideas for all age groups. It aims to encourage schools to welcome and include asylum seekers and refugees into their communities. For more information, go to:

<http://www.cityofsanctuary.org/schools>

NEW RESOURCES ON TRUETUBE:

- **WHAT IS JIHAD?**

An Imam, a muslim youth worker, and a muslim journalist describe what Jihad means to them.

<http://www.truetube.co.uk/film/what-jihad>

- **IN THE BEGINNING**

See what happens when you cross an American sitcom with the first few chapters of Genesis. A highly watchable animation!!

<https://www.truetube.co.uk/film/beginning>

And while you are at it, why not explore the rest of the site? It has an excellent range of resources on Religion and Ethics, as well as assembly ideas.

LANGAR: SWAPPING THE FOOD BANK FOR THE TEMPLE

BBC news: hundreds of thousands of free, hot meals will be served up at Sikh temples across the UK this week, as part of a tradition known as Langar. It is a 500-year old system in which food is distributed to those who want it, as a way of promoting equality. It seems that many people are now preferring to go to a local temple for a hot meal than use a food bank. Watch the video at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-29869502>

NEW PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION VIDEOS

Go to <http://philosvids.wordpress.com/>

FARMINGTON FELLOWSHIPS 2015

Do you yearn for some proper professional development time to do research in RE, or to develop resources or schemes of work for RE? In 2005-6 I did, and successfully applied for one of the school/home-based Fellowships. It was a fantastic experience, so consider applying. To find out more go to the Farmington Institute website. It will have examples of past Fellowship projects (even mine) that may just inspire you!

http://www.farmington.ac.uk/fellowships_and_awards/fellowships.html

RE QUALITY MARK (REQM)

A second conference for schools which have achieved the REQM will be held on Saturday 7 February. The REQM is available for all school types. Further details of all aspects of the programme are on its website at: <http://reqm.org/>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS 2014

If you wish to track the main religious festivals being celebrated in 2014 then go to the RE:Online website at: <http://www.reonline.org.uk/supporting/festivals-calendar>

Compiled by Pat Cassidy, SACRE Consultant, on behalf of Doncaster SACRE.

With thanks to AREIAC, NASACRE, the REC, NATRE and REToday Services where there is information and links from their websites.

The information in this newsletter is for teachers and schools to use at their professional discretion. It in no way represents Doncaster LA endorsement of organisations or materials.

If you wish for further information and advice, please contact John Duhig, Head of Service Education Standards and Effectiveness at john.duhig@doncaster.gov.uk or Pat Cassidy at patricia.cassidy@doncaster.gov.uk

THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP E-NEWSLETTER

**From the Doncaster SACRE
(Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education)**

Spring 2015

Welcome to this term's edition of the Doncaster SACRE e-newsletter. Doncaster SACRE aims to support RE and Collective Worship in all schools by providing local and national updates, advice about best practice, and information about new resources.

Back copies of the e-newsletters can be found on the SACRE section of the Doncaster Council website (they contain lots of useful resource web links). Go to www.doncaster.gov.uk/lasre and then click on the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education link in the Main Section menu. The e-newsletters appear under the Documents menu on this second page.

You will probably have to copy and paste the web links into your web browser.

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- **Free RE Conference: "Energising RE 2015"**
- **RE Today professional development webinars on teaching Islam and Promoting British**
- **Conference on Radicalisation - presenting an alternative narrative (Leeds)**

LOCAL UPDATES:

LOCAL FAITH CONTACTS DIRECTORY

Doncaster CVS Voluntary Sector Directory has a comprehensive list of local faith contacts (at the present time there are 46 listed). This could prove to be a fantastic tool for schools wishing to extend their educational links with local faith groups. Go to: <http://www.doncastercvs.org.uk/directory/service/faith-religion> The full CVS map is at <http://www.doncastercvs.org.uk/directory> Please let me know how useful you found these links by e mailing me at: patricia.cassidy@doncaster.gov.uk

VISITS TO PLACES OF WORSHIP

Visits to places of worship enrich children's learning in RE. RE: Online provides a huge amount of support in planning trips, looking in detail at how to do this for the six major faiths independently. There are also nine videos of visits to places of worship for those classes who cannot take trips, and to reinforce the learning for those who can. Go to:

<http://www.reonline.org.uk/specials/places-of-worship/videos.htm>

OPEN THE BOOK FOR ASSEMBLIES/COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

I have recently been reminded by a local Doncaster teacher about the excellent service provided by the Open the Book volunteer teams. They organise themed and dramatized storytelling of Bible stories at no charge to primary schools. Using drama, mime, props, costume – and even the children and staff themselves – they present Bible stories in lively and informative ways. For more information go to:

<http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/about-bible-society/our-work/open-the-book/>

THE RE TEAM

The RE Team provides assemblies, RE lessons and Godly Play. They currently work in several schools in Doncaster. They work alongside existing Open the Book teams who use a combination of music, storytelling and drama to tell stories from the Bible. A typical format might be Introduction, Drama-Conclusion-Prayer-Song. See www.openthebook.net All their RE lessons are based on the Agreed Syllabus of Religious Education and take into consideration the individual schools own

requirements, enabling children to explore what Christians believe. Godly Play offers an innovative and varied programme or one-off sessions, designed to deliver most of the Christian aspect of the Agreed Syllabus of Religious Education. Godly Play is based on Montessori principles and a session has a pattern of greeting, preparation, the word (story), wonder, response, feast, dismissal. For more information contact: Joy Ventom – RE Team Co-ordinator Tel 07909911417. Email: re.team.doncaster@outlook.com

VISITS TO THE LOCAL MOSQUE AND GURDWARA

If you want to plan a school visit to the local gurdwara please contact Hardev Singh (Secretary) of Sri Guru Kalgidhar Gurdwara on College Road. Mobile Tel: 07765077501. This is a new contact number for the gurdwara. If you want to plan a school visit to the local mosque then we can now supply you with the following two contacts: Shaheed Syed (Muslim representative on the SACRE) on 01302 83344, or by e mail at is.doncaster@gmail.com

- Imaam Zakaria, Doncaster Jamai Mosque at www.doncastermosque.co.uk or imaam@doncastermosque.co.uk

If schools have problems using any of these local contacts numbers, please e-mail Pat Cassidy at patricia.cassidy@doncaster.gov.uk.

FARMINGTON FELLOWSHIP AWARD 2014-15

This year a teacher from a local secondary academy has been awarded a Farmington Fellowship, and is being supported by a liaison tutor at York St John's University. The award involves the teacher working with a group of mixed ability students as co-researchers to discover faith stories from around the world and reinterpret them for a modern day, youth audience. They plan to create a compilation book of short stories with their own adaptations and illustrations. The stories are chosen by the students to reflect the needs of youngsters growing up in today's society, almost like a 'self-help book'. This is a wonderful professional development opportunity. I hope that this might inspire other Doncaster teachers to consider applying next year.

BETTER RE CONFERENCE IN SOUTH YORKSHIRE JANUARY 2015

This was a highly successful event (despite the snow). Twenty six Doncaster teachers signed up to attend, and went away buzzing with ideas and plenty of practical teaching and learning strategies. There are plans to hold another conference next year.

DONCASTER MINSTER NETWORK MEETING 21 JANUARY 2015

Teachers who attended this event found it very enjoyable and rewarding – the Minster staff were extremely welcoming and hospitable. The plan is to make this an annual event. In the meantime, if you wish to plan a visit to the Minster with your students then e mail office@doncasterminster.org.uk or phone 01302 323748

NATIONAL UPDATES:

NEW GUIDANCE FROM THE DfE ON PROMOTING BRITISH VALUES AS PART OF SMSCD IN SCHOOLS

Make sure that you are familiar with this new guidance from the DfE dated November 2014.

The advice for maintained schools can be found at this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-fundamental-british-values-through-smsc>

The advice for academies, free schools and independent schools can be found at this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/improving-the-sm-sc-development-of-pupils-in-independent-schools>

GENERAL:

A FREE RESOURCE FOR EASTER (KEY STAGE 1-KEY STAGE 2)

This programme is from the Teaching Challenge series. It can be found on the school TV website. It shows how you can teach a lesson on Christianity to pupils from a multi-faith background with little or no knowledge of the subject. The Easter story is the subject of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 lessons. Go to: <http://www.schoolsworld.tv/node/375>

JESUS CHRIST VOICEOVER STAR: AN EASTER COMPETITION FROM TRUETUBE

Get your students writing. Truetube are running this competition again this year. Students are invited to write their own voiceover scripts for three short films about the Easter story. The winners will be invited to London to record their work and the finished films will be seen on the website. Copy and paste this link into your web browser:

https://www.truetube.co.uk/jesus-christ-voiceover-star?utm_source=TrueTube+Users&utm_campaign=efee676422-E Letter February 2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_51feb2b583-efee676422-336820105

A LEVEL AND GCSE RESOURCES / REVISION

The Radio 4 History of Ideas series discusses life's big questions and how philosophers have attempted to answer them. There is an accompanying website where the key ideas have been animated. Use as an assessment or revision resource. Go to <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04bwydw>

BBC ETHICS AND RELIGION

Check out this website <http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion> and consider following iWonder on Twitter. Take a look at the recent iWonder page on Buddhism which asks "What's so noble about Buddhism's Four Noble Truths?" <http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/zsd8d2p> and look out for the five new Key Stage 2 programmes for RE "My Life My Religion" which Lat Blaylock from RE Today has been working on. Broadcast dates are likely to be late March, then after that on BBC Class Clips

DIOCESE OF NORWICH SMSC PUBLICATION

“Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural Development: A Christian perspective” was published by the Diocese of Norwich in 2012, and is now available as a free download (with resources) via the Diocesan website <http://www.dioceseofnorwich.org/schools/advice/smsc-development/>

INTERFAITH EXPLORERS NEW WEBSITE

Visit the new look www.interfaithexplorers.com website. With new videos and content for teachers to use in the classroom to support SMSC in schools! It is a free RE and PSHE online resource supported by UNESCO, which can be delivered over a six-week period or throughout the academic year.

A NEW IMPROVED NATRE WEBSITE

If you haven't taken a look for a while, check it out! There has been quite a lot of change, and it now has a much better search engine. Free to all is music, films, curriculum resources, a database of pupils writing, and spirited arts. For NATRE members there are about 500 more things via the passwords. <http://www.natre.org.uk/>

BAHA'I FAITH RESOURCES

Just a reminder of where you can find web resources to support your teaching about the Baha'i faith. The Baha'i Religious Education Agency (BREA) can be found at <http://breauk.org/> In addition, try visiting the Warwick Baha'i Book <http://www.bbc.co.uk/religionshop> website at <http://www.warwickbahaibookshop.co.uk/>

SIKHISM RESOURCES

Take a look at the website Sikhi Resources for fresh ideas and materials for teaching Sikhism <http://sikhiresources.com/>

NEW ON TRUETUBE

Take a look at what is new in RE on Truetube – resources on the Bible and Paganism feature on the main page this month. Go to: <http://www.truetube.co.uk/>

PRIZE FOR INNOVATION IN RE TEACHING

Both primary and secondary schools are invited to apply for the 2015 Hockerill/NATRE prize for innovation in RE teaching. Winning entries receive prizes in two parts: £600 for the school to purchase new RE materials, and £600 educational bursary for the teacher to part fund attendance at a specialist educational course for RE. Closing date for applications is 31 May 2015. To apply go to:

<http://www.retoday.org.uk/news/hockerill-natre-prize-for-innovation-in-re-teaching>

9/11 NATIONAL SCHOOLS COMPETITION

SINCE 9/11 (formerly The 9/11 London Project), has announced the launch of its third annual 9/11 National Schools Competition. The organisation works in education to help young people understand the events, causes and consequences of the 9/11 attacks, as well as their lasting legacy in today's world. For more information on the competition, visit: <http://since911.com/about-us/news/911-national-schools-competition-launched>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS 2015

If you wish to track the main religious festivals being celebrated in 2014 then go to the RE:Online website at: <http://www.reonline.org.uk/supporting/festivals-calendar>

CPD OPPORTUNITES:

'RE: REVIVING AND THRIVING": NATRE CONFERENCE

NATRE are hosting a conference for all teachers of RE in Bolton on 9 May 2015. All primary, secondary and special school teachers are invited to join them at this two day event which will be full of seminars and workshops featuring academics, RE professionals and practising RE teachers from all sectors. To find out how you can book your place visit the NATRE website at <http://www.natre.org.uk/courses-events/upcoming-courses-events/re-reviving-and-thriving/>

FREE RE CONFERENCE: "ENERGISING RE 2015"

Culham St Gabriel's are hosting a free Conference for RE teachers, taking place on 3-4 October 2015 at Wokefield Park, Reading. The theme of the conference will be 'Energising RE: Learning from our successes collaborating for improvement'. For more information, visit the Culham St Gabriel's website, where an online application form will be available shortly <http://www.cstg.org.uk/events/>

RE TODAY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEBINARS ON TEACHING ISLAM AND PROMOTING BRITISH VALUES

RE Today has new online seminars. Teachers struggling to get out of the classroom for CPD training can now take part without leaving their desk! This term's primary webinar is: 'Teaching about Islam in primary: How? Why? What?' for teachers wishing to improve their confidence and knowledge of Islam as well as gain practical examples of engaging and effective strategies for learning <http://www.natre.org.uk/courses-events/upcoming-courses-events/webinar-teaching-about-islam-in-primary-how-why-what/> This term's secondary webinar is on 'Promoting British Values; the Rule of Law' for teachers who want to find out what the new non-statutory duty to 'promote fundamental British values as part of SMSC' means for the RE classroom <http://www.natre.org.uk/courses-events/upcoming-courses-events/webinar-promoting-british-values-the-rule-of-law/>

CONFERENCE ON RADICALISATION – PRESENTING AN ALTERNATIVE NARRATIVE 11 JUNE 2015 (LEEDS)

This conference sets out to address the causes of radicalisation of young people and challenge the mind-sets and assumptions of extremist groups and organisation. It aims to offer an alternative vision and a range of positive and practical strategies to support vulnerable individuals and communities. Go to: <http://www.chanceyourarm.co.uk/da/110447>

**Compiled by Pat Cassidy, SACRE Consultant, on behalf of Doncaster
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**From the Doncaster SACRE
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Summer 2015

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- Free RE Conference: “Energising RE 2015”

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TEACHER NETWORK VISIT TO ST PETER’S IN CHAINS 24 JUNE

Please contact professionallearning@doncaster.gov.uk quoting event number 5050 to be involved in this event. A great opportunity to consider diversity within the Christian Church, and the role of Christianity within the community. St Peter’s in Chains is a powerful teaching and learning resource.

VISITS TO PLACES OF WORSHIP

Visits to places of worship enrich children’s learning in RE. RE:Online provides a huge amount of support in planning trips, looking in detail at how to do this for the six major faiths independently. There are also nine videos of visits to places of worship for those classes who cannot take trips, and to reinforce the learning for those who can. Go to: <http://www.reonline.org.uk/specials/places-of-worship/videos.htm>

ANNE FRANK + YOU EXHIBITION IN DONCASTER

The exhibition is provided by the Anne Frank Trust UK whose aim is to challenge prejudice and reduce hatred by drawing on the power of Anne Frank’s life and diary. The exhibition will offer schools and pupils valuable opportunities to explore British values and identity, and embrace positive attitudes. It will emphasise personal responsibility and respect for others. The location for this very exciting exhibition will be Doncaster Museum and Art Gallery during October.

VISITS TO THE LOCAL MOSQUE AND GURDWARA

If you want to plan a school visit to the local gurdwara please contact Hardev Singh (Secretary) of Sri Guru Kalgidhar Gurdwara on College Road.

Mobile Tel: 07765077501. This is a new contact number for the gurdwara.

If you want to plan a school visit to the local mosque then we can now supply you with the following two contacts:

- Shaheed Syed (Muslim representative on the SACRE) on 01302 83344, or by e mail at is.doncaster@gmail.com
- Imaam Zakaria, Doncaster Jamai Mosque at www.doncastermosque.co.uk or imaam@doncastermosque.co.uk

If schools have problems using any of these local contacts numbers, please e mail Pat Cassidy at patricia.cassidy@doncaster.gov.uk

LOCAL FAITH CONTACTS DIRECTORY

Doncaster CVS Voluntary Sector Directory has a comprehensive list of local faith contacts (at the present time there are 46 listed). This could prove to be a fantastic tool for schools wishing to extend their educational links with local faith groups. Go to: <http://www.doncastercvs.org.uk/directory/service/faith-religion> The full CVS map is at <http://www.doncastercvs.org.uk/directory> Please let me know how useful you found these links by e mailing me at: patricia.cassidy@doncaster.gov.uk

NATIONAL UPDATES:

OFSTED INSPECTION HANDBOOK JAN 2015

The Ofsted School Inspection Handbook was updated in January 2015. If you work in a faith school please look at paragraphs 14 and 15 of the Handbook, as there are some changes to the inspection requirements that will affect you.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/391531/School_inspection_handbook.pdf

GOVERNMENT POLICY AND THE 2015 NATRE SURVEY OF RE IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

RE GCSE Short Course entries in England have fallen dramatically in the last three years. What impact has this had on KS4 provision of RE in your school? NATRE has launched its annual survey on RE in secondary schools in England and urges all those who teach RE to complete it. Your responses will provide NATRE with invaluable details to inform its ongoing campaign to secure the place of RE in the curriculum in all types of schools in the face of significant challenges from changes in the curriculum. Deadline 31 July.

Go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NATRE2015>

GENERAL:

MY LIFE, MY RELIGION VIDEO CLIPS FROM THE BBC

Take a look at this fantastic range of religious education short video clips from the BBC. Great as a stimulus or as an enhancement material for your teaching. Go to:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b05pc1c9/clips>

SECONDARY RE CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

The RE Today website a searchable database of web resources with suggested activities on a range of ethical and philosophical issues. It may have been a while since you last looked at these, so go to: <http://www.retoday.org.uk/> and click on the Classroom Activities link.

NEW ON TRUETUBE: FAITH ON THE FRONTLINE

The interactive resource Faith on the Frontline is now available. It takes a look at the work of Asim Hafiz who was the British Army's Muslim Chaplain during drawdown in Afghanistan, and tackles two issues: Prejudice and Stereotypes and Peace and Conflict. There are interactive activities, video clips and a written booklet to help you plan your lessons.

https://www.truetube.co.uk/?utm_source=TrueTube+Users&utm_campaign=9c9353fe93-

AFAN = ALL FAITHS AND NON

A reminder to take a look at this website again. Plenty of resources on interfaith and belief issues. Go to <http://www.afan.uk.net/> and explore!

2015 HAPPINESS PHOTOGRAPY COMPETITION FROM THE BHA

You might want to consider entering this competition from the British Humanist Association. Go to <https://humanism.org.uk/happiness2015/>

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION RESOURCES

Clarification for schools: where a commercially produced RE resource makes direct planning links to the Doncaster Local Agreed Syllabus, this is not an endorsement of

that RE resource by either Doncaster Local Authority or by Doncaster SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for RE).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS 2015

If you wish to track the main religious festivals being celebrated in 2015 then go to the RE:Online website at: <http://www.reonline.org.uk/supporting/festivals-calendar>

CPD OPPORTUNITES:

THE RE DIRECTORY

The Religious Education Council website has an RE Professional Development Portal which is a one-stop shop for teachers of RE to find out about professional development opportunities of all kinds. The portal includes a database of courses across the UK and online. Go to: <http://www.theredirectory.org.uk/pdportal> You can now also follow the RE PD Portal on twitter [@RE_PDPortal](https://twitter.com/RE_PDPortal) to keep up-to-date with new PD opportunities.

FREE RE CONFERENCE: “ENERGISING RE 2015”

Culham St Gabriel’s are hosting a free Conference for RE teachers, taking place on 3-4 October 2015 at Wokefield Park, Reading. For more information, visit the Culham St Gabriel’s website, where an online application form will be available shortly <http://www.cstg.org.uk/events/>

Compiled by Pat Cassidy, SACRE Consultant, on behalf of Doncaster SACRE.

With thanks to AREIAC, NASACRE, the REC, NATRE and REToday Services where there is information and links from their websites.

The information in this newsletter is for teachers and schools to use at their professional discretion. It in no way represents Doncaster LA endorsement of organisations or materials.

If you wish for further information and advice, please contact John Duhig, Head of Service Education Standards and Effectiveness at john.duhig@doncaster.gov.uk or Pat Cassidy at patricia.cassidy@doncaster.gov.uk