

The Newham RE Agreed Syllabus Launch



At Plashet Secondary school on Tuesday 12th July 2016 Newham council formally launched its New Religious Education Syllabus for schools in Newham. The launch was a feast of items from different faiths celebrating the rich religious and cultural diversity of Newham.

Councillor James Beckles, vice-chair of Newham's Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) welcomed guests from different places of worship, Newham council, teachers, parents, governors, students and children to the launch. Whilst Rev Jeremy Fraser said "Newham is so diverse faith wise and yet we can learn from each other and teach each other. This is a great document, use it, it just celebrates faith and inspires students and teachers alike. Thousands of hours of work is distilled into this syllabus. 'Explore Religions and celebrate Diversity'."

Jane Moon, Deputy Director of education and skills for Newham council added: "RE is more than a subject, more than a syllabus, it teaches us about lives and how we live them. This syllabus is rich in contributions from members of the Newham SACRE and wider education community, use, explore and enjoy!"

There were performances from Hallsville Gospel Choir and Plashet RE department poetry readings. Representatives from a wide range of faith spoke about the role and importance of RE.

Helen Yearnshire Deputy head teacher at Southern Road Primary said "Watching the different items today has been inspirational. Newham has a lot to be proud of in the Religious Education children receive - the new syllabus is exciting and dynamic and reflects our Newham children's diverse backgrounds."

All Newham schools will start to teach from the New Agreed Syllabus from September 2016. "It has been an intensive process writing this new syllabus, but we are so proud that it will help children to understand and know more about people who are similar and different from them." said Claire Clinton, RE Advisor

To find out more about what children and young people are taught in Religious Education please go to <https://www.newham.gov.uk/Pages/Services/School-curriculum.aspx#re>

Finally now in September 2106 we can say that all our Newham academies and free schools have chosen to adopt our new syllabus, and have welcomed the 83 support units Newham teachers and our RE advisor have written and tested in schools.