



**Doncaster**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

**DONCASTER SACRE**

**STANDING ADVISORY  
COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2012 - 2013**

To:

**All SACRE Members  
Department for Education  
NASACRE  
All LA community and VA schools**

## **LETTER FROM THE CHAIR OF SACRE**

SACRE has met its statutory obligations and has met three times for very busy meetings and though fairly well attended there are still vacancies on some committees. Keeping up our numbers has always been a challenge but we are in the process of filling these positions.

Our work has been made more difficult by the lack of data to help us with the monitoring process. Ofsted reports no longer provide comment and information on RE in our schools and the fact that most of our secondary schools are now Academies means that making judgements about provision and staffing is virtually impossible. There is no available data for the progress in our primary schools.

The fall in overall numbers nationally at public examination level is most disappointing. The introduction of the English Baccalaureate has confirmed our worst fears and left RE behind. Coupled with the ambivalent attitude of the government this has contributed to the fall in the number of young people achieving a formal qualification and the number of specialist teachers. Though RE is still a compulsory subject in schools government initiatives appear to have pulled the rug from under its feet!

Nevertheless, we soldier on and I am pleased to report that the new Local Agreed Syllabus is now in use and training has been provided to those who wanted it. We have received some very positive comments about its usefulness, particularly its informative and supportive material.

I offer my thanks to all of our Committee members who have supported the meetings and offered their valuable expertise; and especially to our LA Adviser who keeps us informed and abreast of current thinking and practice in RE.

Barbara Upton, Chair of SACRE

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### **Context**

Doncaster is a small Local Authority (LA) with 17 secondary schools, just over 100 primary schools and 5 special schools. Most of the secondary schools within the Doncaster LA have become academies, as have a smaller proportion of primary schools. The SACRE aims to respond to the challenges and opportunities that the expansion of the academies programme presents.

Information taken from the 2011 Census showed that 65.9% of people identified themselves as being Christian within the Doncaster LA. 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.

Bringing the 2013 Doncaster Agreed Syllabus to publication has been one of the main challenges of this year. Doncaster LA was proud to host a launch event for the syllabus at the Mary Woollett Centre on the 3 July 2013. In compliance with the syllabus review recommendations, it has been produced in electronic form and is accessed from the new SACRE section of the Doncaster Council website at [www.doncaster.gov.uk/las](http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/las). All academies in Doncaster have been actively encouraged to use it.

The 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.

## **1. Standards and quality of Religious Education (RE) provision**

### **a. 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.

There have been no formal complaints about RE in the past year.

### **b. Standards and achievement**

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. A sample of Ofsted reports have been monitored by SACRE but have provided no examples of RE being referred to in terms of standards attained 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 a school to monitor and to address.

### **c. Public examination entries in RE 2013**

The national picture:

“Nationally, overall GCSE Religious Studies exam entries in 2013 have fallen as a result of the introduction of the English Baccalaureate, according to an analysis by the Religious Education Council for England and Wales (REC) and the National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE).

Whilst Religious Studies subject entry numbers have been reported as rising, with those electing to take full GCSE increasing by 10.6%, the growth has been eradicated by a drop of 28.7% in entries for the short course, or half GCSE.

This is equivalent to an overall net drop of 9%, reversing an upward trend since 1995. It is a direct result of the exclusion of the short course as a measure of performance under the EBacc, which has resulted in a downward decline in specialist teacher provision, and lessons being cut despite a legal obligation to teach RE”. (RE Today Services)

#### **Key Stage 3**

There is no LA strategy for collecting evidence on standards at Key Stage 3 in secondary schools (based on the attainment targets in the local agreed syllabus). Standards in schools for all subjects, including RE, are viewed by the LA as a matter for the leadership team in a school to monitor and to address.

### **d. Quality of teaching**

No issues have been reported to SACRE about the quality of RE teaching and learning this year.

### **e. Quality of leadership and management**

No issues have been reported to SACRE about the quality of RE leadership and management this year.

### **f. Teacher recruitment and retention, level of specialist provision**

SACRE does not have current information on teacher recruitment, retention, and level of specialist provision in religious education.

### **g. Resources: level of budgeting and ICT access for RE**

SACRE has no information this year.

## **2. Managing the SACRE and partnership with the LA and other key stakeholders**

### **a. SACRE meetings** Appendix 1

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

Dates:       26 November 2012  
              26 March 2013  
              25 June 2013

There has been approximately 50% attendance at each meeting. All but one of these meetings has been quorate.

### **b. Membership and training**

#### **Membership** Appendix 4

SACRE strives for a broad membership base in line with legal requirements. Efforts have been made by the Clerk this year to widen the membership base on Committees A and B, and fill vacancies where they exist on the other Committees. Approaches have been made to the local Sikh community, the Unitarian and Free Christian Church, and to the Salvation Army and the Quaker community to nominate a representative to attend the SACRE. Attendance on Committee C (the Teachers Associations) is potentially a cause for concern, and steps have been taken by the Clerk to help clarify the representation issues raised by this, as well as following up non-attendance by members generally.

#### **Training**

Induction: 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 and a senior officer from the LA have been in attendance at every meeting this year to update members on national and local developments in RE and the wider curriculum as applicable.

In addition, SACRE members have received training from a senior LA officer on the Doncaster 2012 Religious Studies examination results – with particular reference to entry patterns and standards at GCSE and A level. These will be closely monitored in the next few years in the light of RE's exclusion from the English Baccalaureate.

### **c. SACRE development**

#### **SACRE Self-Evaluation and Development Action Plan**

There has been no time-capacity this year to undertake a process of SACRE self-evaluation, or to review the SACRE development plan. The publication challenges related to the Agreed Syllabus has occupied a great deal of the time of the SACRE consultant. In addition, the packed agenda of each SACRE meeting (a reflection of a busy year for RE related developments/issues both nationally and locally) has meant that the process of self-evaluation and review of the development action plan has been postponed to the next academic year.

#### **Advice and support for schools Appendix 2**

The SACRE e-newsletter on RE and Collective Worship has continued to successfully support RE co-ordinators and teachers in schools this year. The newsletter keeps school leaders and RE teachers regularly informed about national and local developments which support the provision of quality RE and collective worship, including information about local faith contacts, new resources, practical teaching ideas, and Continued Professional Development (CPD) training opportunities.

For example, schools have been advised of the development of the RE Quality Mark Award (REQM), which provides schools with the opportunity to gain national recognition for good practice in RE and is a powerful tool for development. It provides a showcase for excellence in RE.

In addition, to support head teachers and school governors in their statutory duty of ensuring the appropriate provision of religious education and collective worship, advice has been included in the School Leadership and School Governor e newsletters (see 2f and 4a).

This year the Muslim representative on SACRE (who is also the Equality Officer for Doncaster Council) produced a brief summary paper for SACRE of his work in supporting the teaching of Islam in schools. He has helped arrange school visits to the Mosque, offered free Qurans to all schools, and has delivered a number of talks and demonstrations in-school. His work continues to help broaden teacher expertise on Islam and has assisted teachers in developing a range of strategies for enhancing student learning about the Muslim faith.

SACRE does not currently have an on-going relationship with local providers of initial teacher education and CPD.

### **d. Financial support**

The Local Authority provides funding for SACRE from the Children and Young People's Services' budget:

- a dedicated Clerk to support the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
- dedicated support and advice from the SACRE consultant

- essential administration costs

#### **e. Information and advice**

##### **Advice for SACRE from the LA: the Clerk to SACRE (a senior LA officer) has:**

- Discussed the move towards the concept of a paperless office and proposed that future SACRE documentation – the agenda and associated papers – would be sent to SACRE members electronically, except for those members who requested otherwise;
- Outlined and demonstrated arrangements for access to the 2013 Agreed Syllabus, Guidance Material, and associated documentation which is to be found on the newly created SACRE area of the Doncaster Council website (see 3d);
- An IT co-ordinator from Education, Standards and Effectiveness has been identified to work with the SACRE website sub-committee.

In addition the LA has systems in place for monitoring Ofsted reports, and provides the SACRE with a summary of the outcomes of Ofsted inspections.

The Ofsted Framework of Sept 2012 means that reports provide little in the way of information about compliance and quality of provision for religious education and collective worship. However the provision for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) remains an important component in judging the overall effectiveness of a school. Therefore Ofsted reports still have some value as a source of relevant information for the SACRE about SMSC provision in schools, even if identifying this information can be quite time consuming, as this information can occur at any part of the report.

According to the data provided by the LA, 54 schools in total were inspected by Ofsted under section 5 this year: 40 primary schools, 8 secondary schools, 5 special schools and 1 pupil referral unit (PRU). Under the 2012 inspection framework, the overall effectiveness of a school cannot be judged to be good or outstanding unless the provision for spiritual, moral, social or cultural development is deemed to be at least good. On that basis, this year the provision for SMSC has been judged at least good in 15 primary schools, 1 secondary school, and all 5 special schools.

However, past experience of monitoring Ofsted reports has shown that in many instances, Doncaster schools have received better judgements for the provision of SMSC development than they do for the judgement on overall school effectiveness. The RE Adviser therefore sampled 12 inspection reports where the overall effectiveness of a school was judged less than good to see if that was an accurate reflection of SMSC provision.

The sample consisted of 8 primary schools, 3 secondary schools, and 1 PRU. Of the two sample schools with the lowest overall judgement of “inadequate” the provision of SMSC was described as effective (with one reservation):

“Students’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is promoted effectively in a variety of ways”. (secondary)

“Spiritual, moral and social development is effectively promoted through reflection time, religious education and assemblies. However, there is very little evidence around the school of celebrations of other cultures”. (primary)

Of the other 10 schools that were judged requiring improvement, 7 contained very positive comments about SMSC provision. For example:

“The curriculum supports pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development particularly well”.

“Pupils rapidly improve their personal skills because of a very well planned approach to including SMSC development in every aspect of the schools’ work”.

Only one secondary academy stands out as needing to increase the range of opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

Surprisingly in two primary schools, no specific reference was made at all to SMSC provision in their Ofsted reports.

From this sample evidence, therefore, it is clear that where a school is judged by Ofsted reports to be less than good overall, this is often not a judgement that can also be applied to that schools’ provision for SMSC development.

### **Information and advice for the SACRE from schools**

SACRE has not requested information and advice from schools this year, other than a request for school responses confirming that they have received the relevant information about the launch of the 2013 Agreed Syllabus and the advice on where schools can access it electronically on the Doncaster Council website.

### **Professional advice available to SACRE**

The LA employs a part-time SACRE consultant to provide advisory support for the SACRE about national and local developments in religious education and collective worship. The SACRE consultant represents the Doncaster SACRE at professional association meetings, and provides SACRE members with government, curriculum, and professional association updates. Newsletters are routinely circulated for the information of SACRE from NASACRE (SACRE News) and REtoday. Copies of the RE and Collective Worship SACRE e-newsletters are distributed for the information of members.

### **Issues referred to the LA by the SACRE**

The SACRE has requested that schools are kept informed (through the various e-newsletters) of issues/advice discussed at SACRE meetings which are of direct relevance to teachers, headteachers and school governors. For example, having considered the advice in the protocol document produced by NATRE entitled “Assuring provision for RE in maintained schools in England” the SACRE asked for this to be an item in the next SACRE e-newsletter to schools.

The LA has been pleased to organise an official” launch” event for the revised 2013 Agreed Syllabus on the 3 July 2013 at the Mary Woollett Centre. This was well received by schools, and was accompanied by a commitment to provide training on the Agreed Syllabus for teachers and school governors in the following academic year (see 3d).



## **f. Partnerships with other key stakeholders**

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

Academies have been informed about the pamphlet produced by NASACRE detailing the benefits for academies of working with their local SACRE [http://www.nasacre.org.uk/downloads/NASACRE\\_Acad\\_Leaf.pdf](http://www.nasacre.org.uk/downloads/NASACRE_Acad_Leaf.pdf). Schools have also been informed about the recent Q&A advice from the DfE on RE and Collective Worship in Academies and Free Schools.

Through the School Leadership and Governor newsletters the LA has made it clear that it welcomes the use of the 2013 Agreed Syllabus by academies. The reviewed syllabus places renewed emphasis on the importance of religious education in a school's planning for the provision of opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and makes clear links with the Subsidiary Guidance issued to Ofsted inspectors in January 2012.

Academies are included on the mailing list for the SACRE e newsletter which is sent to all schools each term. This provides an update on developments in, and resources for, religious education and collective worship. Some of the updates this year have been specifically targeted at academies. For example an item on "Unlocking RE in Academies" has provided information about a series of regional day conferences for teachers of RE in primary and secondary academies.

In addition SACRE continues to have established links with the wider RE community such as NASACRE (the National Association of SACREs), AREIAC (the Association of RE advisers, inspectors and consultants), and RE Today services. The SACRE consultant is a member of AREIAC. This year the Vice-Chair of SACRE represented Doncaster SACRE at the NASACRE AGM on the 23 May 2013.

## **3. The effectiveness of the local agreed syllabus**

### **a. Review of the Agreed Syllabus**

Cycle of Agreed Syllabus implementation:

- 2013:  
Launch of the new Agreed Syllabus
- 2013-16:  
Training support for teachers in the new Local Agreed Syllabus (introduce, embed, consolidate) and the monitoring of its delivery in schools (see 3d)

In the light of imminent national curriculum reform, the level of syllabus change has been restricted to updating and rationalising the previous 2006 syllabus. According to positive feed-back from schools, the revised 2013 Agreed Syllabus is now more user-friendly.

## **b. Using the non-statutory national framework**

The non- statutory National Framework for Religious Education (NFRE) published in 2004 has continued to be a major source of guidance for the revised 2013 Doncaster Agreed Syllabus. The revised syllabus draws extensively on the materials from the National Framework (for example, the levels of the Framework are incorporated into the Agreed Syllabus). This is to enable schools to draw on materials which might be produced nationally i.e. schemes of work, exemplification materials and published materials.

In addition the 2013 syllabus takes account of more recent national advice: the illustrative RE programmes of study for secondary education (2007); QCA RE and pupils with learning difficulties (2009); RE in English schools: Non-statutory guidance 2010 (DCSF); Subsidiary Guidance, Ofsted Framework (2012); and the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework 2012.

## **c. Developing the revised Agreed Syllabus**

An RE curriculum review is currently being undertaken by the Religious Education Council and is due to be completed by the end of the year. It aims to produce a new non-statutory RE curriculum framework in line with the government's review of the national curriculum. Future developments of the agreed syllabus will take account of this new framework.

## **d. Consultation/launch/implementation of the Agreed Syllabus**

Local consultation with schools and other local stake-holders has been an essential element in the process of reviewing and producing the 2013 Agreed Syllabus. It has been published electronically on the Doncaster Council website for schools to download.

The Agreed Syllabus launch event to introduce the revised syllabus to school governors, head teachers, teachers of religious education and other stakeholders took place on the 3 July 2013 at the Mary Woollett Centre.

As part of this event a programme of training support for RE co-ordinators and teachers on the syllabus was outlined for the following term. The aim is to follow this up with a series of RE network training meetings which will provide opportunities for teachers to engage in development work related to the 2013 syllabus, and provide an opportunity for the LA to monitor its implementation.

Training for school governors on the syllabus has also been planned for the spring 2014 term to help support them in their statutory responsibilities for ensuring appropriate provision for RE in their schools.

In this way the LA has provided a structure for embedding and consolidating the agreed syllabus in its schools.

## **e. Additional guidance/monitoring and evaluation of the Agreed Syllabus**

A separate Guidance Material document has been produced to support subject managers and class teachers in their use of the 2013 Agreed Syllabus (which is in addition to the additional guidance included within the syllabus document itself). This can also be

accessed electronically from the Doncaster Council website, together with other relevant curriculum support materials.

#### **4. Collective Worship**

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.

This year the SACRE considered the joint AREIAC and NASACRE statement about the status of Circular 1/94. The government has stated that Circular 1/94 continues to be the government's advice on Collective Worship, and that schools may use this advice as appropriate.

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 separated school activity”.

##### **a. Support for Collective Worship**

This year the SACRE has considered the joint discussion paper produced by NASACRE and AREIAC on collective worship entitled “Collective Worship Revisited”. The paper explores the best approaches to collective worship within the current statutory framework and government guidance.

Schools have been informed about this document through the SACRE and School Leadership e newsletters. It clarifies the legal requirements, identifies the obstacles, considers the potential benefits, exemplifies good practice, and sets out recommendations for practitioners and policy makers. It demonstrates how, working within the law, collective worship is “inclusive, participative, challenging and educational”. The exemplar material on “Working Together”, “Threads”, “Planting for the Future” and “Do unto others...” indicates clearly the potential contributions to pupils’ SMSC development.

##### **b. Monitoring provision**

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

There has been no LA monitoring of the provision of Collective Worship this year.

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

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

## **5. Contribution of the SACRE to the community cohesion agenda**

### **a. Representative nature of the SACRE Appendix 4**

SACRE aims to reflect the religious and ethnic diversity of the local area, but is aware that this could be even better. The membership of Group A includes representatives from the Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist and Baha'i faiths, and approaches have been made to try and recruit a representative from the Sikh community. A range of Christian denominations are also represented within Group A (Methodist, Baptist, Roman Catholic), and efforts have been made to identify a new representative of the Unitarian and Free Christian Church. A co-opted Humanist representative is part of Group A. Group B consists of three representatives from the Church of England. Some of the members of Groups C and D (the Teachers Associations and the Local Authority) have religious faith backgrounds.

The Clerk to SACRE works to ensure that its membership reflects the diversity of the local area by pursuing vacancies as they arise. As members leave, the faith group they represent is asked to nominate a replacement. The SACRE Constitution specifies that the SACRE review the composition and attendance of each committee annually (usually at the beginning of each academic year).

### **b. Knowledge and understanding of the local religious, cultural, and ethnic minorities**

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.

### **c. Understanding the intrinsic contribution which RE can make to social, racial, and religious harmony and to community cohesion.**

By ensuring that the Agreed Syllabus reflects the diversity of faiths not only in the local area but nationally, and that the revised Agreed Syllabus emphasises the importance of RE in promoting social, racial, and religious harmony, SACRE has already engaged in an important contribution to community cohesion.

The SACRE e newsletter is not only for the information of all schools in Doncaster, but for the SACRE also. This year it has kept the SACRE informed about events and resources relevant to RE that promote greater understanding and harmony within communities

The Muslim representative on SACRE is also the Equality Officer for the Children's Services in the LA. His continuing work with schools in promoting greater understanding of Islam is invaluable and greatly appreciated. This year he has given a talk at the Central Library on "The similarities between Christianity and Islam".

#### **d. Links to Local Authority initiatives promoting diversity**

Doncaster LA has a long established tradition of promoting diversity through the Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS). A key aim of the service is to promote equality and community cohesion, and to establish partnerships with schools. It has a resource base where artefacts, books and resources are available on loan to support work on religious education in schools. The Hindu representative on SACRE is based at EMTAS, and is an important link to this service. Thanks to her efforts a Sikh contact has been identified for schools to assist them in their planning for visits to the local Gurdwara.

#### **Summary**

Doncaster SACRE is confident that the 2013 Agreed Syllabus, and the extended and updated guidance material that accompanies it, will provide Doncaster schools with a stimulating and challenging curriculum document that is fit for purpose.

This year the DfE has published its new arrangements for the national curriculum, GCSEs and accountability. These pose continuing challenges for RE. Michael Gove has admitted that educational reforms have resulted in “unintended consequences” for RE. An All Party Parliamentary Group has issued a call for evidence and published its findings on the supply of and support for teachers of RE. Its conclusions are worrying. Doncaster SACRE has followed all these developments closely and supports the work of the professional RE associations as they continue to challenge educational developments that threaten to marginalise religious education within the school curriculum.

#### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1: SACRE meetings, attendance, and matters discussed
- Appendix 2: The Religious Education and Collective Worship e- newsletters from the Doncaster SACRE
- Appendix 3: Glossary of terms used in this report
- Appendix 4: Membership of the Doncaster SACRE 2012-13

## SACRE MEETINGS, ATTENDANCE, AND MATTERS DISCUSSED

**26 NOVEMBER 2012** 10 present; 2 apologies; 9 absences; 2 in attendance.

- Election of Chair (B Upton) and Vice-Chair (K Rodgers) of SACRE
- Summary review of SACRE membership and attendance 2011-12 postponed to the spring meeting
- Future communication to SACRE members: the Clerk to SACRE explained that the move to the new council building had prompted a move towards the concept of the paperless office. It was proposed that future documentation be sent to SACRE members electronically. For some SACRE members this was a difficulty. It was agreed to move to an electronic form of communication, except for those members who expressed a preference otherwise.
- Forging links with our academies: there was a discussion on how best to communicate/develop links with academies in the LA. SACRE requested that the LA include all academies on the mailing list for the termly SACRE e-newsletter. In addition, the SACRE requested that the LA send all academies the pamphlet produced by NASACRE for leaders of academies and free schools outlining the benefits of continuing to teach the locally agreed syllabus.
- Impact of the Ebacc: concerns were raised about the marginalisation of the non-Ebacc subjects, including RE, and the lack of sufficient specialist teachers of RE. When time allowed, it was seen as desirable to attempt some form of sample monitoring of RE in schools – the new legal requirement for schools to publicise curriculum provision on their school websites was seen as one way of doing this.
- Developing the support for RE teachers in schools: the termly SACRE e newsletters to continue. Additional advice and guidance incorporated into the newly revised local agreed syllabus. A new guidance document produced to support the new syllabus document.
- SACRE on the Doncaster website: it was proposed that all relevant RE documentation and support material should appear on a newly created SACRE section of the Doncaster council website. A SACRE sub-committee was formed with website responsibilities.
- REC subject review/APPG Call for Evidence: SACRE members were briefed about the current public consultation process for both initiatives. Because of pressure of time, and the very short consultation period, it was agreed that interested members would respond individually to the questionnaire activities.
- Summary and analysis of school Ofsted inspection reports: the SACRE adviser produced an explanation document outlining the latest summary judgements used in the Ofsted Framework Sept 2012. There is no longer a separate grade allocated to SMSC. However the judgement on the provision of SMSC remains an important component in judging the overall effectiveness of a school. The SACRE Consultant produced a discussion document. There was general agreement about the difficulties of identifying the relevant information on SMSC that would be of interest to SACRE under this new framework format.
- Collective Worship: the SACRE considered the joint AREIAC and NASACRE statement about the status of Circular 1/94
- Newsletters: the 2012 autumn term SACRE E-newsletter had been circulated to schools. SACRE's attention was drawn to the newsletters on the REC review of RE

and the primary and secondary editions of RE today, which were all made available for reference at the meeting

- Sikh Temple liaison: thanks to the efforts of the Hindu/Buddhist representative on SACRE a new representative has been appointed to assist schools wishing to organise visits to the Gurdwara. Information for schools about this to be detailed in the Spring 2013 SACRE e newsletter.

**26 MARCH 2013** 9 present; 4 apologies; 7 absent; 2 in attendance  
(Not quorate)

- SACRE membership attendance summary 2011-2012: An analysis was provided by the SACRE Adviser. Comments on attendance by the Clerk were deferred to the summer meeting
- 2013 Agreed Syllabus publication and launch update by the Clerk
- Religion in England and Wales 2011: members were shown a short video from the Office for National Statistics on the 2011 census data relating to RE. Comparisons were made between the national census data and the local faith population data included in the 2011-12 Annual Report. Doncaster figures mirrored the national trends of an increase in the number of people specifying that they held no religious belief, a decrease in the number of people who professed to follow Christianity, and an increase in the numbers following other religions.
- 2012 Religious Studies examination results: an LA Officer presented an analysis of the data in the un-redacted version of the 2011-12 Annual Report. There was a discussion on Full and Short Course GCSE data. It was noted that there had been a relatively small decline in GCSE entries since last year. At A level, AS entries had increased significantly since last year, but A level entries had dropped. In the light of recent curriculum reform it is important to monitor entry patterns over the next few years to see how these might impact on RE provision
- 2011-12 Draft SACRE Annual Report: the draft report was discussed and suggested amendments noted. The draft could not be approved as the meeting was not quorate, and therefore the amended report needed to be re-presented at the summer meeting for approval.
- Michael Gove and Religious Education: SACRE had an opportunity to comment on the RECs response (article "The Good, Bad and Ugly") to the DfE's publication of the new arrangements for the national curriculum, GCSEs and school accountability
- Academies: the SACRE viewed the recent Q&A publication from the DfE on RE and Collective Worship in Academies, which was designed to clarify some of the issues. SACRE requested that an item on this should be included in the LA School Leadership Newsletter for the information of all Doncaster schools, and that a renewed invitation be made to all academies to use the 2013 Agreed Syllabus
- Summary and analysis of school Ofsted inspection reports: the RE Adviser updated SACRE of schools inspections. Under current Ofsted arrangements it was to be assumed that the standard of SMSCD was at least as good as the overall grade. Where that grade was good or outstanding, then SMSCD should be deemed at least good. It was agreed that the RE Adviser would aim to sample 10 inspection reports where the overall grade was less than good to see if that was an accurate reflection of SMSC provision also.
- Islam: the Muslim representative on SACRE (who is also the Equality Officer for Doncaster Council) produced a brief summary paper of his work in supporting the teaching of Islam in schools. He has helped arrange school visits to the Mosque, offered free Qurans to all schools, and has delivered a number of talks and

demonstrations in-school, and also at the central Library on “The similarities between Christianity and Islam”

- Newsletters: the 2013 spring term SACRE e newsletter had been circulated to schools. A copy of this and the Spring 2013 SACRE News from NASACRE was circulated to members
- Information Exchange: the contact details for a new local Sikh school liaison representative were circulated; the SACRE adviser highlighted the key features from the APPG Final Report into the supply of and support for RE teachers; it was agreed that the Chair of SACRE would represent Doncaster SACRE at the NASACRE AGM in the summer
- Future agenda items: SACRE Self Evaluation and Development Plan; update on signposting SACRE on the Doncaster website; Academies update; school website monitoring of RE provision.

**25 JUNE 2013** 11 present; 3 apologies; 6 absences; 2 in attendance

- Membership and attendance: vacancies on Committees A, B and C were highlighted. The Clerk would continue to approach relevant organisations to fill existing vacancies, and follow up non-attendance by existing representatives
- 2013 Agreed Syllabus: publication and launch event: The Clerk outlined and demonstrated the arrangements for access to the 2013 Agreed Syllabus on the Doncaster Council website [www.doncaster.gov.uk/lasre](http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/lasre) . A launch event for the syllabus is to take place on the 3 July at the Mary Woollett Centre. In addition training events on the new syllabus and guidance material are planned for RE teachers and co-ordinators in the 2013 autumn term, and for governors of schools in the 2014 spring term
- Draft SACRE Annual Report 2011-12: this was agreed by SACRE following the amendments requested. The Clerk to redact sensitive data before forwarding to NASACRE for publication on their website
- Summary and analysis of Ofsted reports: just under half of Doncaster schools inspected to date this year (18/42) had an overall grade that was good or outstanding. In these schools therefore the SMSC provision was at least good. Of the remaining schools requiring improvement, or deemed inadequate overall, a detailed reading of a sample of reports is planned to provide a snapshot of SMSC provision.
- RE Curriculum Review by the REC – this runs parallel to that of the National Curriculum Review, from which RE has been excluded
- NATRE response to the reform of the National Curriculum proposals: the SACRE looked at the response made by one RE professional association as part of the consultation process initiated by the DfE on the curriculum reform proposals, which were still in draft form. In particular. The SACRE adviser highlighted the importance NATRE placed on detailed subject aims, their concern about the wording of the attainment targets, and the importance of referencing RE throughout the national curriculum review process
- Assuring provision for RE in maintained schools in England: SACRE considered the advice in this protocol document produced by NATRE and discussion moved to how the LA might monitor RE provision in its maintained schools. SACRE requested that the LA disseminate this advice to schools through the SACRE e newsletter
- NASACRE AGM 23 May 2013: this was attended by the vice-chair of SACRE, who provided detailed feedback on the day. A summary of the events of the day is to be found on the NASACRE website



- An IT co-ordinator from Education, Standards and Effectiveness has been identified to work with the SACRE website sub- committee
- Newsletters: the 2013 summer term SACRE e newsletter had been circulated to schools. A copy of this and the summer 2013 SACRE News from NASACRE was provided for members. The SACRE adviser said that there had been feedback from some schools requesting additional information on support for RE teaching
- Statement from the Inter-Faith Network on the Woolwich murder
- Future agenda items: SACRE Self Evaluation and Development Plan; Academies update; school website monitoring of RE provision.

The Religious Education and Collective Worship e- newsletters from the Doncaster SACRE

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

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

**Autumn 2012**

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 up-to-date information about new resources and initiatives.

***“Make sure RE and assemblies are beacons when it comes to providing opportunities to reflect, to use imagination and creativity, to develop curiosity, to explore the moral and social aspects of life, and to encounter and value diversity”.***  
***Alan Brine HMI, Ofsted's National Adviser for RE***

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**DONCASTER LOCAL AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RE**

Doncaster's RE syllabus has been reviewed, and schools will soon receive official confirmation and details about how they can access this important document. The

reviewed syllabus places renewed emphasis on the importance of religious education in a school's planning for the provision of opportunities for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) development, and makes clear links with the Subsidiary Guidance issued to Ofsted inspectors in January 2012.

Many thanks to all those schools who took the time to respond to the syllabus review questionnaire. Your comments helped shape the changes that have been made.

## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP REVISITED**

With the renewed emphasis on the importance of SMSC development within the 2012 Ofsted inspection framework, an effective programme of collective worship will make a significant contribution to the opportunities for this that a school provides. This is an important paper for all schools to consider. "It clarifies the legal requirements, identifies the obstacles, considers the potential benefits, exemplifies good practice, and sets out recommendations for practitioners and policy makers".

The paper demonstrates how, working within the law, collective worship is "inclusive, participative, challenging and educational". The exemplar material on "Working Together", "Threads", "Planting for the Future" and "Do unto others..." indicates clearly the potential contributions to pupils' SMSC development. To access this paper follow the link: <http://www.nasacre.org.uk/downloads/CollWorRevisit.pdf>

## **HAVE YOUR SAY ON RE: THE SITUATION OF RE IN OUR SCHOOLS, AND THE NATIONAL SUBJECT REVIEW OF RE**

Currently there are two important reviews being conducted, and they have both reached the stage of public consultation where they welcome your views. What you say matters, and will inform the outcome of both reviews.

**The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG)** is conducting an enquiry on the supply and support for religious education teachers. With the exclusion of RE from the EBacc, concerns have been raised. They have launched a "Call for Evidence", with questionnaires for primary and secondary co-ordinators of RE. Responses to be submitted by 14th December.

**RE Council RE subject review:** Draft Report of the Expert Panel. They welcome your thoughts and comments on the draft report. Responses by 7th December.

**How to take part:** go to the Religious Education Council website - link <http://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org>.

## **IMPACT OF THE EBACC LIKELY TO HIT RELIGIOUS STUDIES IN 2013**

Religious Studies is currently one of the top ten most popular subjects at GCSE and the fifteenth most popular at A Level. Whilst this is encouraging, we need to bear in mind that the effects of not including Religious Studies in the English Baccalaureate are not yet apparent. The negative impact of the English Baccalaureate on RS entries is anticipated to take effect in 2013

## **NEW OFSTED RE WEB PAGES**

Ofsted now has a dedicated RE section on its main website which provides a range of useful information including recent RE inspection reports, access to the good practice site, and details of grade criteria used on RE subject inspections. Ofsted's next major triennial report on RE is due for publication in December 2012. Go to <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/our-expert-knowledge/religious-education>

## **FAO ACADEMIES: BENEFITS OF WORKING WITH YOUR LOCAL SACRE**

Doncaster SACRE is committed to promoting and supporting high quality RE and collective worship throughout the Doncaster area. The SACRE welcomes the use of the Doncaster Local Agreed Syllabus by Academies. SACRE is keen to work in partnership, and to encourage teachers to collaborate within the local community to pool resources and expertise in the interests of improving standards and quality of teaching and learning in RE, and in ensuring good progression and continuity for all pupils. For further information on the benefits of working with your local SACRE, follow the link: [http://www.nasacre.org.uk/downloads/NASACRE\\_Acad\\_Leaf.pdf](http://www.nasacre.org.uk/downloads/NASACRE_Acad_Leaf.pdf)

## **THE RE QUALITY MARK (REQM) WEBSITE HAS NOW BEEN LAUNCHED**

If you know your learners have great experiences in RE, the **RE Quality Mark** will give you national recognition for the work you do. The REQM recognises good practice in RE and also provides a powerful tool for development. Schools which have applied for the award have found that it affirms the work they are already doing, raises the profile of the subject and gives them ideas and confidence for developing their practice even further.

Good RE supports the development of the whole child. It also has a significant contribution to make to whole school improvement. With the renewed focus from Ofsted on the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development for all pupils, it is more important than ever that RE is recognised and celebrated.

The REQM website is now live at <http://www.reqm.org/> where you can find details about the purpose of the Quality Mark, the criteria and case studies.

## **WEBSITE: ISLAM IN SCHOOLS**

This new website has been produced by experts within the Islamic Society of Britain in a fresh and interesting way to appeal to the teacher and to the young person or child, with an easily navigable site with a range of useful resources on Islam. There is something here for all age ranges in primary and secondary schools. Visit <http://islaminschools.com>

## **HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2013**

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust has gathered together ideas and resources to help teachers in planning activities which are appropriate to their school context and curriculum. Resources are free and available from <http://education.hmd.org.uk>

## **GIVE MORE – THE MOVEMENT FOR CHARITY ACTIVISM (secondary)**

“Give More” is working with the Citizenship Foundation to develop some free resources for secondary schools to encourage schools to join the campaign and help students identify and discuss some of the issues raised by “Give More”, and feel empowered to get involved themselves.

The “Give More” resources are designed to support Religious Education, Citizenship, PSHE and English. They also provide an opportunity to promote students’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Go to [www.g-nation.org.uk/givemore/](http://www.g-nation.org.uk/givemore/)

## **WEB RESOURCES FOR RE (secondary)**

The RE Today Services website provides a searchable database of web resources with suggested activities for your secondary RE lessons. Click on the Classroom Activities tab to find the full range of resource topics available.

## **TALKING PICTURES (primary)**

Talking Pictures is a visually rich resource to support four- to seven-year-olds to learn from religion by talking. The pack, priced £30, contains 31 full colour photographs of images related to Christianity, Islam and Judaism and a wider view of spirituality, extending beyond religious ideas.

Each of the 16 cards provides a series of questions for the teacher to use to encourage talk and there is also a 24-page teachers’ book – for more details visit the RE Today website [www.retoday.org.uk](http://www.retoday.org.uk)

## **CHALLENGING VOICES – A FREE NEW RESOURCE for FE**

This has been written for colleagues in the FE sector to provide support for contentious issues. Difficult topics can arise in any subject or course. Rather than shut down sensitive conversations, young people are saying that they want the chance to discuss them. It is available for free download at

[http://www.retoday.org.uk/media/display/REsilience\\_FE\\_Booklet\\_Challenging\\_Voices.pdf](http://www.retoday.org.uk/media/display/REsilience_FE_Booklet_Challenging_Voices.pdf)

## **2013 HOCKERILL / NATRE PRIZE FOR INNOVATION IN RE TEACHING**

Details of the Prize for the primary and secondary sectors, and how to apply, are found on the Hockerill Foundation website. The closing date for the receipt of entries is 31 January 2013. <http://www.hockerillfoundation.org.uk/Prize.aspx>

## **THE RE CONFERENCE - MARCH 2013**

“The RE Conference: from good to outstanding” is a one day conference for subject leaders in primary, middle, secondary and special schools, headteachers and those responsible for SMSC. Find the link at

[http://www.retoday.org.uk/media/display/The\\_RE\\_conference\\_2013.pdf](http://www.retoday.org.uk/media/display/The_RE_conference_2013.pdf)

## RELIGIOUS DAYS AND EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY 2012

### SEPTEMBER

- Christian: harvest festival **1st**
- Sikh: Installation of Sikh Scripture in the Harmandir Sahib **1st**
- Zoroastrian: Fravardin Mah Parab **5<sup>th</sup>**
- Rastafarian: Ethiopian New Year's Day **11th**
- [Jewish: Rosh Hashanah](#) **17-18th**
- [Hindu: Ganesh Chaturthi](#) **19th**
- [Japanese: Higan](#) **20-25th**
- [Jain: Paryushan](#) **20-26th**

### OCTOBER

- Jewish: Sukkot **1-7th**
- Jewish: Simchat Torah **9<sup>th</sup>**
- Hindu: Navaratri **16-22<sup>nd</sup>**
- Inter Faith Week Of Prayer For World Peace **16-22<sup>nd</sup>**
- Baha'i: Birth Of The Bab **20th**
- Sikh: Conferring Of Guruship On The Guru Granth Sahib **20<sup>th</sup>**
- Hindu: Durga Puja **22<sup>nd</sup>**
- Chinese: Ch'ung Yang **23<sup>rd</sup>**
- Hindu: Dussehra **24<sup>th</sup>**
- Muslim: Yaum Arafah **25th**
- Muslim: Eid-UI-Adha **26th**
- Buddhist: Pavarana **30th**

### NOVEMBER

- Christian: All Saints' Day **1<sup>st</sup>**
- Christian: All Souls' Day **2<sup>nd</sup>**
- Rastafarian: Anniversary Of The Crowning Of Haile Selassie **2<sup>nd</sup>**
- Muslim: Eid-UI-Ghadeer **3<sup>rd</sup>**
- Remembrance Sunday **11<sup>th</sup>**
- Baha'i: The Birth Of Baha'u'llah **12<sup>th</sup>**
- Hindu, Jain, Sikh: Diwali **13<sup>th</sup>**
- Muslim: Al-Hijra **15<sup>th</sup>**
- Muslim: Ashura **24th**
- Sikh: Martyrdom Of Guru Teg Bahadur **24<sup>th</sup>**
- Buddhist: Anapasati Day **28<sup>th</sup>**
- Sikh: Birthday Of Guru Nanak **28<sup>th</sup>**
- St Andrew's Day **30th**

### DECEMBER

- Christian: Advent Sunday **2<sup>nd</sup>**
- Buddhist: Bodhi Day **8<sup>th</sup>**
- Christian: Immaculate Conception Of The Blessed Virgin Mary **8<sup>th</sup>**

- Jewish: Hanukah **9<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>**
- Human Rights Day **10<sup>th</sup>**
- Christian: Christmas Eve **24<sup>th</sup>**
- Christian: Christmas Day **25<sup>th</sup>**
- Zoroastrian: Zartusht-No-Diso **25<sup>th</sup>**
- Japanese: Omisoka **31<sup>st</sup>**

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

With thanks to AREIAC, NASACRE, REC and RE Today Services for 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, Senior Secondary Adviser at [john.duhig@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:john.duhig@doncaster.gov.uk)

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

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

**Spring 2013**

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 up-to-date information about new resources and initiatives.

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**RE Think RE campaign**  
**NATRE North of England RE Conference May 2013**  
**Religious days and events for your diary**

**NEWS FROM THE DfE**

The government has abandoned its plans to replace GCSEs with EBacc certificates. A new broader performance measure for schools (Performance8) allows GCSE RS to count towards school performance alongside the EBacc subjects. RE has been reaffirmed in the new National Curriculum document at every key stage, and in addition is also now included in the Specialist Leader in Education programme by the National College of School Leadership.

**EXEMPLIFICATION OF STANDARDS IN RE LEVELS 1-8**

The NATRE website has assembled these all together for ease of use. Go to <http://www.natre.org.uk> and look at the Links menu.



## **LOCAL CONTACTS: SIKHISM AND ISLAM**

Planning a trip to the local gurdwara:

If you want to plan a school visit to the local gurdwara then Surat Singh is happy to help you with your arrangements. You can contact Surat Singh on 07976 432586.

Planning a trip to the local mosque:

If you want to plan a school visit to the local mosque then Shaheed Syed is happy to help you with your arrangements. You can contact Shaheed on 01302 862602 e-mail: [shaheed.syed@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:shaheed.syed@doncaster.gov.uk)

## **RE IN SPECIAL SCHOOLS: A GOOD PRACTICE RESOURCE**

Ofsted have published a tried and tested way of planning and teaching RE for pupils with special needs. It addresses many of the concerns expressed by teachers of RE in special schools, about how best to create an approach to RE which meets these pupils' distinctive needs and values their personal experiences. It can be downloaded here:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/good-practice-resource-inclusive-approach-religious-education-special-school-little-heath-school>

## **THE JEWISH WAY OF LIFE**

The travelling exhibition The Jewish Way of Life is now available at no cost. It is very useful for educating large numbers of children about Judaism. Contact Sara Younger at the Board of Deputies of British Jews [Sara.younger@bod.org.uk](mailto:Sara.younger@bod.org.uk)

## **CATHEDRALS PLUS**

Most cathedrals in the UK – and many abbeys, minster, shrines and greater churches – have someone who is responsible for education, for welcoming school groups into their place of worship and for providing a teaching experience for thousands of pupils every year. There is more information available on the website of Cathedrals Plus – the umbrella organisation for Education Officers as well as those responsible for visitor care. Go to [http://www.cathedralsplus.org.uk/index.php/front\\_end/introduction.html](http://www.cathedralsplus.org.uk/index.php/front_end/introduction.html)

## **HUMANISM FOR SCHOOLS**

If you are looking for information, ideas and teaching materials about Humanism, go to <http://www.humanismforschools.org.uk> Teaching Toolkits investigate some of the Big Questions raised in religious education lessons and provide a humanist perspective for your pupils to consider. Age range 5-16 years.

## **LIFE OF PI: FREE RESOURCES FOR KS5 RE**

Damaris has produced free resources to support the use of film in RE/RS lessons with 16-18s. They include two 5-minute film features which explore the questions “What does it mean to be human?” and “Can we decide what to believe?” (encouraging discussion about the nature of truth and the place of logic and reason in Eastern and Western philosophies). A free comprehensive teachers guide provides suggestions for classroom activities and discussion. These resources are available at <http://www.damaris.org/lifeofpi>

## **THE JERUSALEM TRUST SMALL GRANTS TO SCHOOLS SCHEME**

The Jerusalem Trust supports the teaching of Christianity within religious education by providing schools with up to £500 to purchase resources for Christianity teaching. The scheme is open to both primary and secondary schools, although priority will be given to secondary schools without a religious affiliation. Applications can be made online through their website, and should take no more than 10-15 minutes. If you are interested, go to <https://www.regrants.org.uk>.

## **RE THINK RE**

Sign up to the campaign for good RE for every pupil in every school – it will only take a few minutes. Go to <http://rethinkre.org>

## **NATRE NORTH OF ENGLAND CONFERENCE 18-19 MAY 2013**

This is for all teachers of RE in primary, secondary, and special schools. It is generously supported by Culham St Gabriel's. Enjoy a weekend of shared expertise and good practice. For the schedule of events, workshops, and application details go to: [http://www.retoday.org.uk/media/display/NOE\\_conference\\_flyer\\_2013\\_A\\_final.pdf](http://www.retoday.org.uk/media/display/NOE_conference_flyer_2013_A_final.pdf)

## **RELIGIOUS DAYS AND EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **February**

- 13 Lent (start) Christianity
- 14 St Valentines Day Christian
- 15 Saraswati Puja Hindu
- 24 Lantern Festival Chinese
- 24 Purim Jewish
- 25 Magha Puja Buddhism

### **March**

- 1 St David's Day Christian
- 2 Nineteen Day Fast (start) Baha'i
- 10 Mothering Sunday Christian
- 17 St Patrick's Day Christian
- 21 Naw-Ruz New Year Baha'i
- 24 Palm Sunday Christian
- 26 Passover (1<sup>st</sup> day) Jewish
- 28 Hula Mohalla (Lunar Calendar) Sikh
- 29 Good Friday Christian

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**THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP  
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**From the Doncaster SACRE  
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- Page 4: RE and Collective Worship in Academies and Free Schools:  
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**RS GCSE TO COUNT IN THE NEW ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES**

The DfE has confirmed that GCSE Religious Studies can count as one of the last group of three subjects in the new Performance Eight measure to be introduced by the government as part of its new school accountability arrangements.

**APPG FINAL REPORT - "RE: THE TRUTH UNMASKED"**

The All Party Parliamentary Report (APPG) has produced its report on the supply of and support for RE teachers. A summary of the main findings and recommendations can be found on the REC website at:

[http://religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/media/file/APPG\\_RE\\_one\\_page\\_summary.pdf](http://religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/media/file/APPG_RE_one_page_summary.pdf)

**SPECIALIST LEADERS OF EDUCATION IN RE**

Have you considered taking the SLE route with RE as your specialist area of expertise? Take a look at the National College for Teaching and Leadership webpage at:

<https://www.nationalcollege.org.uk/signin?indexidol=no&url=http://www.nationalcollege.org.uk/index>

## **VISITS TO THE LOCAL MOSQUE AND GURDWARA**

You may be interested to read some of the feedback from recent visits by schools to the local mosque and gurdwara. With many thanks to Surat Singh and Shaheed Syed for their assistance in organising school visits.

### **26 March 2013**

“A really successful trip to the Gurdwara. Surat was an excellent host and made our Year 1 and staff feel very welcome (Surat had a really good way of relating to the 5-6 year olds). ). We ran out of time and didn't have time to eat the pop and crisps which Surat got for us. Year 1 are going to send thank you letters. Thank you for sharing their details with us”.(Norton Infant School)

### **21 March 2013**

RE: Mosque visit .....“The pupils found it extremely beneficial. It was great for them to actually see the mosque and to hear a practising Muslim talk about his religion. We've covered everything that was discussed in class but it consolidated their knowledge and understanding and really helped them to build a bigger picture of Islam in their minds. The organisation with yourself (Shaheed Syed) was excellent and we were made to feel very welcome at the mosque and had a chance to have tea and biscuits and an informal chat with some other members of the community. It was a great experience which I hope will help them when it comes to their exams”.(Head of RE Sir Thomas Wharton Community College)

If you want to plan a school visit to the local gurdwara then contact Surat Singh on 07976 432586.

If you want to plan a school visit to the local mosque then contact Shaheed Syed on 01302 862602 or e-mail [shaheed.syed@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:shaheed.syed@doncaster.gov.uk)

## **7 FILMS ON GOOD LEARNING IN RE**

Seven new videos – stimulating short films of great classroom ideas in action, can be found on the NATRE website. The topics are:

Enquiring into worship with 7-9s  
A Pastor's week in 9 objects (artefacts) 9-11s  
Sharing Shabbat with 5-7s  
A slave set free – a Muslim story for 5-7s  
The art of Allah 11-13s  
The Soldier's Dilemma for 9-11s  
Who's responsible for the abortion? 13-15s

Go to [http://www.natre.org.uk/good\\_learning](http://www.natre.org.uk/good_learning)

## **RELIGION IN ENGLAND AND WALES: THE 2011 CENSUS DATA**

You may be interested in the findings of the 2011 Census on religion in England and Wales. If so, go to:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXdZJoXuxC8&feature=youtu.be>

## **ART IN HEAVEN COMPETITION (5-19 age group)**

Why don't you enter pupils' creative work in RE in the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary competition. It is part of NATRE's "Spirited Arts" strategy for more creative RE. This year's themes include Prayer: How and Why?; God: What if.....?; Windows on the Soul; Open Mind; and Jerusalem by William Blake. Entries by 31 July. For competition entry details go to <http://www.natre.org.uk/spiritedarts>

## **THE NEW REC WEBSITE**

Take a look at the exciting, newly designed website for the Religious Education Council (REC). It has all the latest news from the RE world, information about current educational RE projects, and a Quick Links section – the Educators section will be of particular interest for teachers in their planning. Check out the Young Ambassadors for RE scheme aimed at students aged 11-18, and follow their progress.

Go to <http://religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk>

## **THE NEW RE: ONLINE WEBSITE**

The new version of this website has been redesigned with busy teachers in mind. It has a search facility to help users find the resources they are looking for. Visitors can also sign up at an online "café" to take part in conversations about RE. The site content is in 5 sections corresponding to the key aspects of RE teaching: Leading, Knowing, Assessing, Supporting and Learning. There are plenty of ideas here for the RE teacher.

Go to [www.reonline.org.uk](http://www.reonline.org.uk)

## **UNLOCKING RE IN ACADEMIES**

This is a new series of regional day conferences for primary and secondary teachers of RE from RE Today and NATRE. The conference at Leeds on the 7 November is the one which might interest teachers from Doncaster. The delegate fee is just £65 due to generous grant funding from the Jerusalem Trust. You can register your interest at [courses@retoday.org.uk](mailto:courses@retoday.org.uk) – full details and booking forms will be available from the RE Today website in early June.

## **RE AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP IN ACADEMIES AND FREE SCHOOLS: Q&A from the DfE**

<http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/r/re%20and%20collective%20worship%20in%20acads%20and%20fs%20qanda.pdf>

This article from the DfE helps to clarify the position of the range of academies (with differing characteristics) in relation to the statutory requirement for RE and Collective Worship. It describes the role of the SACRE in relation to academies, and explains about the locally agreed syllabus.

Academies without a religious character must provide RE in accordance with the requirements for local agreed syllabuses. For this reason, academies in many local authorities have continued to follow their locally agreed syllabus as they recognise the benefits of following a ready-made curriculum document which is periodically reviewed, updated, and supported with guidance material.

Doncaster Local Authority would welcome this level of partnership with Doncaster academies. If you are an academy and intend to use the 2012 Doncaster Agreed Syllabus for RE, please inform Sue French at [susan.french@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:susan.french@doncaster.gov.uk)

## RELIGIOUS DAYS AND EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

### May

- 9<sup>th</sup> Ascension Day (Christian)
  - 12<sup>th</sup> Christian Aid week starts
  - 15<sup>th</sup> Shavuot (Jewish)
  - 19<sup>th</sup> Pentecost (Christian)
  - 23<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i)
  - 24<sup>th</sup> Wesak (Buddhism)
  - 25<sup>th</sup> Zartosht No Diso (Zoroastrian)
  - 26<sup>th</sup> Trinity Sunday (Christian)
  - 29<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)
  - 30<sup>th</sup> Corpus Christi (Christian)
- Also 2<sup>nd</sup> June

### June

- 6<sup>th</sup> The Prophet's Night Journey and Ascent (Muslim)
- 12<sup>th</sup> Dragon Boat Festival (Chinese)
- 16<sup>th</sup> Martyrdom of Guru Arjan (Sikh)
- 21<sup>st</sup> Midsummer Solstice (Pagan)
- 21<sup>st</sup> World Humanist Day
- 23<sup>rd</sup> The Night of Forgiveness (Muslim)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Pentecost (Christian)

### July

- 1<sup>st</sup> Chokor (Buddhist)
- 9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Martyrdom of the Bab (Baha'i)
- 9<sup>th</sup> Ramadan (Muslim)
- 10<sup>th</sup> Ratha Yatra (Hindu)
- 16<sup>th</sup> Tisha B'av (Jewish)

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

With thanks to AREIAC, NASACRE, the REC and RE Today 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, Senior Secondary Adviser at [john.duhig@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:john.duhig@doncaster.gov.uk), or Pat Cassidy at [patricia.cassidy@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:patricia.cassidy@doncaster.gov.uk)

**Glossary of terms used in this report**

AREIAC: Association of Religious Education Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants

LA: Local Authority

REC: Religious Education Council

NATRE: National Association of Teachers of Religious Education

NASACRE: National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education

SACRE : Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

SMSC development: Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development



## **Membership of the Doncaster SACRE 2012-13**

### **1. Committee A Members (Christian & other religious denominations)**

Vacancy (Buddhist)  
J Gessler (Jewish Faith)  
M Gogoi (Hindu/Buddhist)  
S Norburn (Humanist)  
K Ratcliffe (Roman Catholic) replaced by J Moreland March 2013  
J C Reasbeck (Methodist)  
J Stephenson (Baptist)  
S Syed (Muslim)  
B Teimoori (Baha'i)  
Vacancy (Sikh)  
Vacancy (Unitarian and Free Christian)

### **2. Committee B (The Church of England)**

Vacancy  
Revd J A Davis  
K Scovell  
B Upton

### **3. Committee C (Teachers' Associations)**

M Brannan (National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers)  
P Cassidy (National Union of Teachers)  
J Coward (National Union of Teachers)  
N Walker (Association of Teachers and Lecturers)  
Vacant (National Association of Headteachers)  
M Williams (Association of Teachers and Lecturers)  
Vacancy (National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers)

### **4. Committee D (Local Authority Representatives)**

Councillor S Bolton  
Councillor J Kidd  
Councillor K Rodgers  
Councillor D Woodhouse