

Autumn 2007

RE NEWSLETTER

Cambridgeshire Advisory Service

Special points of interest:

- Amended Schemes of Work to support the syllabi
- Update on the National Strategy

Inside this issue:

Courses and Network Meetings	2
OFSTED Subject Report	2
Update on the National Strategy	2
Monitoring the provision of Religious Education and Collective Worship	3
Free RE Teacher Weekend	3
Diocesan Links	3
Cross Phase Project	4
Course Dates	4
Useful Websites	4

To: RE Subject Leaders

Welcome to the new academic year

I do hope you all feel refreshed and revitalised by your holidays and that you feel ready to tackle another year.

I am looking forward to supporting you all in what ever way I can.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's Religious Education Agreed Syllabi 'Go Live!'

The start of a new year is always a time to be enthusiastic about new teaching materials and practices. This September sees the implementation of the Agreed Syllabi for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough City Council.

Please do not panic about having everything in place for September. It will take time to embed the new syllabi. You may like to take your time to consider different creative, cross curricula or thematic approaches to your teaching. I suggest you identify a

time scale for implementing the syllabus fully in your long and medium term plans. If you need help or support do not hesitate to contact me.

Support Schemes of Work for Implementing the Agreed Syllabus

Some teachers expressed concern at the lack of time to revise the existing non-statutory schemes of work on the portal. Therefore I have looked at the existing schemes and made amendments. These are currently being finalised up and will be found on www.re.ccceducation.net/curriculum. I have expanded upon the learning objectives and outcomes of the existing units and merged some units together where there appeared to be overlaps. I have included some new activities which address AT2 and assessment tasks for many of the schemes which can easily be

levelled and provide a summary of assessments. So far, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 have been modified. It is hoped that by November 2007 there will be support material for the Foundation Stage. However, it gives teachers something to start with in September and helps them to focus on the changes within of the new syllabi. Please note the schemes of work on the portal are not the syllabus but guidelines. They are non-statutory but, if used, will cover the requirements of the Agreed Syllabi.

I would like to build up a bank of resources that teachers can 'dip' into and see the wide range of schemes available. They can then select ones which suit their interests, resources, style of teaching and pupils' learning, and still meet the requirements of the Agreed Syllabus. Consequently I would like to encourage as many of you as possible to send me examples of successful schemes of work, which can be made available to other teachers in the authority. The greater bank of resources we have the less onerous the task will be to tailor the schemes to the needs of your pupils. These will be on the portal ([www.re.ccceducation.net/curriculum/schemes of work](http://www.re.ccceducation.net/curriculum/schemes_of_work)). Please look out for these regularly. They will be added to all the time.

Courses and Network meetings

I have put together a programme of courses and network meetings to address the requests for support from teachers. Please have a look at the aims and objectives of courses being offered for the next academic year in the course booklets or on the portal. I do hope that many of you will be able to continue your professional development by attending some of the courses. There are some highly experienced/specialist people who have been invited to run courses which should lead to some exciting and challenging inset. Have a look at the programme for the next year and book on a course.

I also want to encourage you to attend one of the termly network meetings. These are going to be very practical and active sessions

as we look to support one another with sharing examples of teaching and learning and best practice. This will improve knowledge and skills in assessment and develop confidence in leading the subject.

2001-2006 Ofsted Subject Report

(Issued June 2007)

See www.ofsted.gov.uk/publications/070045

The report finds that some progress has been made in enhancing the provision for RE in recent years. Much greater consensus exists about the nature and purpose of the subject; fewer schools fail to meet the statutory requirement to teach RE and in many schools the profile of RE is positive. Pupils' achievement in RE in primary schools has improved since 2001.

The report, ***Making sense of religion: a report on religious education in schools and the impact of locally agreed syllabuses***, calls for a review of the current statutory position of RE. At present RE is placed outside the National Curriculum with all 151 local authorities having responsibility for developing their own locally agreed syllabus

The report argues that RE should not ignore controversy or the changes in the role and significance of religion in the modern world. Pupils should be taught that religion is complex, that its impact is ambiguous and should be given the opportunity to explore that ambiguity.

Miriam Rosen, Ofsted's Director of Education, said:

"The improvements in RE over the last few years are to be welcomed but more needs to be done if the subject is to develop in students a more profound understanding of the significance of religious commitment and diversity and its impact on society."

Up-date on the National Strategy for Religious Education

A few years ago it would have been

unthinkable to expect a National Strategy for Religious Education. In March of this year, The Religious Education Council submitted proposals for a National Strategy for Religious Education to Lord Adonis, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, with responsibility for Religious Education. The year 2007-8 is envisaged as a transitional foundation year in which proposals for this strategy are refined, negotiated and agreed upon, followed by an implementation period of three years (coinciding with the 2008-11 capital Spending Round), extensible to five years depending on demonstrated effectiveness. Details about the proposal can be found on www.religiouseducationcouncil.org/RE. If this is accepted it will have significant impact on the provisions and content of RE in our schools.

The report by the REC's Commission on *RE Teaching and Training* is an integral companion to the proposals. It provides the basis for improvements in ITT and a structured programme of CPD. I would strongly recommend you read the document. (ISBN 978-0-905437-09-5)

Monitoring provision of Religious Education and Collective Worship

It is a statutory requirement for each local SACRE to report annually to QCA about the provision of RE within their Authority. In the past Ofsted Reports were used to provide much of the detail but this is no longer possible. This is an area of concern for all SACREs and much debate at national level has been conducted about how to glean this information. It also informs SACRE of the local needs for support.

As the revised Agreed Syllabus comes on line in September 2007, Cambridgeshire SACRE decided it would be beneficial to see what is the picture currently in Cambridgeshire. This will aid SACRE to determine how best to offer support in the county. It is hoped to send a questionnaire from SACRE during the autumn term to ascertain details about the provision of RE. The schools will not be identified but we

would urge you to complete the questionnaire as soon as possible on receiving it.

In Peterborough each school will receive a letter from SACRE, following an Ofsted visit, asking if they would like any support or follow-up from SACRE regarding their provision and implementation of the Agreed Syllabus. Peterborough SACRE offer a follow up visit or support from one of its members following an Ofsted Inspection. There are 4 members who have been trained to support the schools in RE and it is very pleasing to see how a number of schools have taken up the free offer.

Collective Worship

One of the areas being discussed nationally is the statutory requirement about a daily act of collective worship. There is much debate about this. If you have any thoughts about the value and legal requirement about collective worship please inform Sue Ward (susan.ward@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) and she can represent your views to SACRE, so they can give an informed, measured response to the debate on the compulsory collective worship act. Comments to Sue Ward by Fri 16th Nov. 2007

Free RE Teacher Weekend

The St. Gabriel's Programme is again sponsoring a national RE Teacher Weekend to be held on 13th - 14th October 2007 at Wokefield Park near Reading. The purpose of the conference is to bring together 200 RE secondary teachers and primary RE coordinators who are in the early stages of their teaching careers (between 1 and 15 years), for a weekend of professional development. It also provides delegates with an excellent opportunity to meet and network with colleagues from across the country. The conference is free to those who have not previously attended. This highly popular event is always a sell-out well in advance. If you're interested in attending, check out the website for more details - <http://www.culham.ac.uk/sg/weekend/index.php>. If you don't make it to this

weekend - look out for it next year.

Diocesan Links

Dr. Shirley Hall, Ely Diocesan RE Adviser is providing another set of courses on Islam. There are eight RE Liaison groups, which are open to teachers from all primary schools in Cambridgeshire. All sessions are free and last just over an hour (4.15-5.30pm) and you receive a free booklet of background materials and teaching ideas at each session.

This term the meetings will take place on the following:

Wed. 26th September - *St Luke's School, Cambridge*

Thurs. 27th September - *Farcet School, near Peterborough*

Wed. 3rd October - *Barrington*

Thurs. 4th October - *Linton Infants School*

Thurs. 11th October - *Wormegay School, West Norfolk*

Wed. 17th October - *St. Peter's Junior School, Wisbech*

Wed. 31st October - *Diocesan Office, Ely*

Wed. 7th November - *Great Paxton School*

Thurs 8th November - *All Saints School, March*

Cross phase project

A number of schools in both Peterborough and Cambridgeshire are involved in a cross-phase RE project for Year 6 to Year 7 pupils. A transitional unit of work was developed by PCFRE and has been piloted by some primary and secondary schools with an aim to raise standards of achievement between KS2 and KS3. Thank you for all of the teachers and

schools who are taking part. The outcome of the trial will be reported at a later date.

Course details and network meetings

Below please find a list of all the RE courses that will be held over the next few months. Please book early to ensure you have a place.

2.10.07 **Network Meeting** 4.15pm - 5.45pm
Kings Hedges, **Code 17650**

3.10.07 **Network Meeting** 4.15pm - 5:45pm
Buckden Primary School, **Code 17651**

9.10.07 **Network Meeting** 4.14pm - 5:45 pm
Burrowmoor Primary School, **Code 17652**

10.10.07 **Network Meeting** 4.15pm -
5.45pm Isleham Primary School, **Code 17653**

30.10.07 **Peterborough Practical Course in Assessment in RE KS1** 1.30pm - 4.30pm,
Code RELO4

(contact Alex.Broadfield@peterborough.gov.uk)

31.10.07 **Assessment in RE KS2** 2.00pm -
5.00pm, Over Community Centre, **Code 17602** (note change of date from booklet)

1.11.07 **Peterborough Primary Network Meeting** at The Beeches Primary School,
4.00pm - 6.00pm, **Code RELO1**

(contact Alex.Broadfield@peterborough.gov.uk)

6.11.07 **Assessment at KS1** in CPDC,
Cambridge 2.00pm - 5.00pm, **Code 17607**

29.11.07 **Creative Foundation Stage Children**, Over Community Centre 9.30pm -
4.00pm with Jane Gedny, **Code 17290**

CONTACT

Sue Ward

General Adviser—RE and SACRE

Cambridgeshire Advisory Service

Scott House

5 George Street

Huntingdon

Cambs

PE29 3AD

Phone: 01480 375881

Fax: 01480 375853

Email: Susan.Ward@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.re.ccceducation.net