



Autumn 2009
Primary

R.E. NEWSLETTER

Special points of interest:

- SACRE Celebration Event
- Primary Curriculum
- RE & Literacy

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Cambridgeshire Advisory Service

To: RE Subject Leaders

Welcome Back

Welcome back to all teachers who have enjoyed a well-earned holiday and are now 'pulling at the bit' to go again! There is something exciting about a new year.

Welcome also to all new teachers to the profession. This is such a rewarding job but not without its challenges. Be assured that there are always colleagues that can support you and that you are not on your own. Don't ever hesitate to ask for help or contact me if you ever need advice or help.

Welcome to all new subject leaders that have the responsibility for Religious Education in the curriculum. If you are new to this role do get in contact and let Julie Gillies, my Business Support Assistant, know at julie.gillies@cambridgeshire.gov.uk so that we can keep up to date with our records of subject coordinators/leaders and keep you informed of any relevant national updates. If you are new to the post in a school in Peterborough contact Lynne Perry and let her know at

lynne.perry@peterborough.gov.uk

Special News! Celebration of the SACRED Event and Spiritual Art Competition

The Cambridgeshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) will be hosting an after school celebration event, as part of their responsibility to promote community cohesion and good RE, on **Wednesday 4th November 2009 3.30pm-7.00pm, at Comberton V.C. Leisure**. This event is for all RE subject leaders, both primary and secondary and Headteachers. Invitations will be sent out early in the autumn term. There will be an opportunity to participate in a choice of mini workshops, network with colleagues, SACRE members and faith communities, and review valuable resources.

As part of the celebration, an art competition based on the theme 'spiritual art' will shortly be published and winners announced at the celebration event. Please put this date in your diary.

National Updates and News

Do you know about 'The National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE)'?

NATRE is the subject teacher association for RE professionals in primary and secondary schools and higher education. Look at the web link below. This is free to join. All you have to do is register, get a user name and password when you first log in and apply to join. Thereafter it gives teachers of RE fantastic resources.

<http://www.natre.org.uk/index.php>

Look at the Primary film about 'Why RE? The support material also gives you ideas how to use the film

<http://www.natre.org.uk/explore/video.php?id=47>

'Improving School Inspections : What RE Teachers Need to Know'

Look at what the HMI for Religious Education, Mr Alan Brine, has said about the new inspection framework commencing September 2009 and the significance for RE teachers.

This is extremely useful information so please do take a look at

http://news.reonline.org.uk/re_news.php?288

In summary the new arrangements maintain the importance of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Ofsted will also make judgements about the effectiveness of the curriculum, including RE. There will be judgements about the effectiveness of the Governing Body meeting their responsibilities including those in relation to RE and collective worship. Judgements about leadership and management and their ability to drive improvement will not only apply to the senior leadership team and the Headteacher but to all levels of management i.e. subject leaders. Finally the new arrangements reiterate the priority of promoting community cohesion and that includes understanding of the religious communities locally, nationally and globally.

Primary Curriculum

Following the period of consultation we now await the outcomes and see what impact they have upon RE. At a recent National

Conference for RE Inspectors, Consultants and Advisers, it was reinforced by the HMI that RE is still a statutory subject, determined locally. Any attempt to marginalise RE or 'throw it out' of any curriculum models, will be contravening the law, going against the spirit of the duty to promote community cohesion and be judged adversely by Ofsted and its new Framework. The law has not changed on the statutory nature of RE and collective worship.

However, to just fight for statutory RE on the timetable does not ensure good quality RE said the HMI. It is better to have quality RE rather than quantitative RE. There are many primary schools using this opportunity to review their curriculum and think about delivery of the National Curriculum in creative ways. Where some schools have sought to have whole school days on RE once per half term, rather than a 30 minute slot every week, pupils' interest and achievement in RE have risen significantly. There is no one way to fit all schools, he hoped that schools would use this time to think about the value of RE on the curriculum and how it supports the development of the whole child. It does not matter which model of the curriculum a school chooses i.e. a creative curriculum, an enquiry-based curriculum, a discrete curriculum or a cross-curricula curriculum, Religious Education can challenge both pupils and teachers and be of great value.

Continuing Professional Development

LOOK at the new courses on offer. Please do not pass this section by without looking at the wide range of courses I have put together following comments made by teachers on courses last year.

"RE and Literacy"

I thought why can't Religious Education be a lead subject for some of the National Strategies. No reason at all and, so along with my colleague Ben Bardell, we have devised a Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 course for all Literacy and Religious Education subject leaders entitled 'Reflective Story Telling and Talk for Writing'. This is an innovative and exciting course.

“RE and Community Cohesion”

Another new course this term is ‘Promoting Community Cohesion through RE’. In the light of Ofsted comments since last September 2008, when it became a statutory requirement for Ofsted to make judgements about schools’ ability to promote community cohesion, there are significant links to Religious Education. If you feel this is an area where your school could improve upon, or you want some fresh new ideas about how to promote this, come on this course.

‘Dealing with Fears around RE’

Yet another new course which came out of courses being expressed to me at network meetings by teachers and Headteachers about how to deal with or tackle issues and fears that arise out of teaching this subject.

For a list of all the courses in both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough please see the last page and book through the usual channels.

For Cambridgeshire teachers who may prefer to attend courses in Peterborough, because they are nearer to their place of work, please check with Lynne Perry on the costs. There will be a slightly increased rate for teachers outside Peterborough LA.

Resources for teaching Islam

‘Q Fatima’, a charity aimed at the production of Islamic resources, has recently released a Qur’an Toolkit to aid the teaching of Islam. The resource includes key concept cards and a poster all designed to encapsulate the message of each chapter of the Qur’an.

For more information see

<http://www.qfatima.com/>

The Muslim Council of Britain have sent to all Local Authorities a superb, high quality and teacher friendly box of books for primary schools. Do feel free to borrow the box at any time. For Peterborough primary schools contact lynne.perry@peterborough.gov.uk and for Cambridgeshire primary schools contact julie.gillies@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Dottie and Buzz : A New Early Years Resource

A new Dottie and Buzz site presenting RE and Christianity for the early years has been launched. 10 photo stories with accompanying songs, craft activities and cookery are supported by teacher notes with links to the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage. See:

www.dottieandbuzz.co.uk/preschool

Multi-Cultural Library

Don’t forget that at Cromwell Road Children’s Services there is an excellent library of resources to support the teaching of RE. Artefacts, as well as books, can be loaned out free to schools in Peterborough. Contact Vika Joblonskyte 01733 864584 for further details.

Ely Diocesan News for all Primary Schools

The theme for the primary liaison groups is going to be ‘**Christian Values in RE and collective worship.**’

Dates are:

30th September, All Saints March
 1st October, Farcet Primary (nr Peterborough)
 8th October, Teversham Primary
 13th October, Linton Infants
 21st October, Thriplow Primary
 22nd October, Diocesan Office, Barton Road, Ely
 11th November, St Peters Junior, Wisbech
 12th November, Great Paxton Primary
 All meetings starting at 4.15 p.m., lasting just over an hour.

Invite to India

The Cambridgeshire Ecumenical Council (i.e. all churches in Cambridgeshire) is linked to the Diocese of Vellore in South India – the Diocese straddles a predominantly rural area on the border of the states of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Regular visits take place between the two countries, and in August 2010 it is proposed to take a group of teachers across for approximately three weeks to spend time with the local Christian communities and to also have the opportunity of trying their hand at teaching in Indian schools (in English!). The visit will also include sightseeing opportunities and some visits to Hindu temples, but the focus

will be on being with Christians in India. If you are interested in finding out more about this trip, why not take a look at the host of photographs on <http://www.ely.anglican.org/education/schools/vellore/> to whet your appetite, and then to find out more come along to a meeting on 2nd November. The meeting will be held at 7.30 p.m. at the Diocesan Office in Barton Road, Ely CB7 4DX. Everyone welcome – even if you are “just looking”! If you have any queries in advance of the meeting please contact Shirley Hall at shirley.hall@ely.anglican.org

Cambridgeshire Courses

Assessment and Progress in RE

24 Sep - Over CC - Course Code 19409 or
1 Oct - Oliver Cromwell Hotel, March Course Code 19410 both 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Promote Community Cohesion Through RE

13 Oct - Sackville House, Gt Cambourne, 1.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m Course Code 19418

Dealing with Fears around RE (KS1/KS2)

20 Oct - Stanton House, Huntingdon, 1.15 p.m. - 4.30 p.m. Course Code 19413

Making Learning links at KS2

5 Nov - Over CC, 9.30 a.m. - 3.00 p.m. Course Code 19452

Reflective Story Telling & Talk for Writing

KS1 - 11 Nov - Hemingford Grey Pavilion, 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. Course Code 19464 or
KS2 - 13 Nov - Over C.C. 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. Course Code 19474

Collective Worship for All - How? (KS1/2)

18 Nov - Hinchingsbrooke Park, 9.15 a.m. - 12.15 p.m. Course Code 19414

Enjoy and Excel in RE and D&T (KS2)

3 Dec - Hinchingsbrooke Park, 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. Course Code 19425

Developing Communities of Enquiry in RE

(KS1/2) 12 Jan 2010 - Sackville House, Gt Cambourne 9.15 a.m. - 12.15 p.m. Course Code 19420

Leading & Managing Primary RE (KS1/2)

14 Jan 2010 - Hinchingsbrooke Park 9.30 a.m. - 3.30 p.m. Course Code 19461

Developing Critical Thinking Skills (KS2)

20 Jan 2010 - Hinchingsbrooke Park 9.30 a.m. - 3.30 p.m. Course Code 19424

RE Network Meetings

14 Oct - Burrowmoor Primary, PE15 9RP

15 Oct - Monkfield Primary, CB23 5AX

21 Oct - Meldreth Primary, SG8 6LA

22 Oct - Eynesbury Primary, PE19 2TD

5 Nov - Isleham Primary, CB7 5RZ

All 4.15 p.m. - 5.45 p.m.

To book a place on the above or request further details, please phone 01480 375634 or e-mail CAS@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Peterborough Courses

Developing Personalised Learning and Thinking Skills in RE

15 Oct, 9.15 a.m.-12.30 p.m.

RE Network Meeting - 11 Nov, 3.45 p.m.- 5.15 p.m.

How to Lead and Manage Primary RE in a New Primary Curriculum

8 Dec, 9.30 a.m.-4.00 p.m.

All of the above Peterborough Courses will be hosted at Children's Services, 165a Cromwell Road, Peterborough, PE1 2EL.

To book a place on the above courses or request further details, please phone 01733 864583 or e-mail lynneperry@peterborough.gov.uk

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE

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