

NASACRE BURSARY BID 2013

This is a joint bursary bid between Durham and South Tyneside SACREs.

**Project title: What does it mean to live in a religiously diverse society?
An enquiry approach for Key Stage 3 students.**

THE AIMS OF THE PROJECT

This project is designed to:

- develop students' knowledge and understanding of religious diversity in the region and the UK
- help students explore the differing impact that religions and beliefs have on individuals and communities
- enable students to use enquiry based learning to develop their own questioning, direct their own research, report and evaluate their findings
- support the implementation of the newly revised Agreed Syllabus in both Durham and South Tyneside
- provide professional development for all RE teachers through developing guidance for a future school based project
- raise the profile of RE and SACRE in schools
- raise the profile of the work of SACRE within the local authorities.

THE CONTEXT

Agreed Syllabus Implementation

Durham and South Tyneside local authorities have recently revised their Agreed Syllabuses (Durham June 2012, South Tyneside March 2013) and would use this project funding to support Agreed Syllabus implementation.

- The unit, 'What does it mean to live in a religiously diverse country?' has been recommended in both Durham and South Tyneside Agreed Syllabus. This unit focuses on investigating local religious communities and belief systems, considering the extent of diversity in the north east region, comparing this with another region and investigating the impact that beliefs have for individuals and communities. This project would be a useful tool in enabling RE teachers and students to work together across the region, sharing resources and building up partnerships with faith communities
- Each Agreed Syllabus has a section on enquiry based learning (see attached) to actively engage pupils in investigating issues surrounding religion and belief. Both Agreed Syllabus conferences regarded this as an important approach in RE and were mindful of recommendations from Ofsted (Transforming Religious Education: Can an enquiry based approach to learning help to improve the quality of RE?) The project would

help to embed this approach in schools. The Interfaith Conference and visits to faith communities (see The Project section below) will give students information and faith perspectives to help them with their enquiry investigation.

Local Context

Many pupils in these regions do not have first hand experience of religious diversity within their local communities other than within the Christian traditions. County Durham, for example, has no religious community buildings other than Christian places of worship (other than a small university mosque). Whilst schools do try to give opportunities for pupils to meet people from a diversity of faiths and where possible visit local places of worship, this can be quite challenging for some schools. Durham and South Tyneside SACREs are committed to helping schools engage with faith members and communities and recognise the contribution RE makes to social and community cohesion and the combating of prejudice and stereotyping. For example Durham SACRE has:

- organised Inter Faith conferences in 2009 and 2010 for students to meet SACRE members and members of local faith communities (including from Christianity, Bahai, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Humanism)
- produced vodcasts of SACRE and local faith members talking about various aspects of their faith and views on a range of issues.

This NASACRE project would help to develop this work further as schools would develop an enquiry over several months, working with faith members and communities.

THE PROJECT

All secondary schools in Durham and South Tyneside will be invited to apply for this project including Academies. It is anticipated that 2 / 3 South Tyneside schools will take part and 5 / 6 Durham schools (there are more secondary schools in County Durham than in South Tyneside).

Each school will have a RE teacher / Leader to co-ordinate the project in their school and attend the project working party meetings.

Each school will decide which year group the project will be for and which students will directly take part in the conferences / visits / presentations. This could be the same group of students or different groups at each phase of the project. It is anticipated, however, that all classes within the chosen year group will be able to develop the enquiry in school, as students who attend the Interfaith Conference and faith communities will share their findings with other students back in school. This will multiply the effects of the project within each school.

Each school will have a SACRE member linked to their school throughout the project in order to offer support. This will help to build up strong links between schools and SACRE. It will also enable SACRE members to see the Agreed Syllabus in action and begin to evaluate its effectiveness.

A Working Party will be set up to meet throughout the project and evaluate and share findings at the end of the project. This will comprise of:

- Project Manager - the RE Inspector / Adviser for Durham and South Tyneside, Isobel Short.
- RE Leader / Co-ordinator in each school
- SACRE members including SACRE link members to each school

IMPACT OF THE PROJECT

- **Students** - will develop appropriate learning about religion and belief, deepening their understanding of the impact of belief for individuals and communities. They will have the opportunity to meet a range of people from various belief systems as well as students from other schools. Students will develop the skills of independent thinking, working in a team and presenting information. This project therefore helps students develop personal learning and thinking skills and contributes to their social and cultural development.
- **Schools** - can evaluate the project and use this to develop an enquiry based approach in other departments across the school. This project contributes to and gives evidence for the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of students.
- **Teacher professional development** – the findings of this project and guidance for developing a similar project will be shared at subject network meetings and regional RE conference. . This will multiply the positive effects of this project for schools and students in the region.
- **SACRE** – this project would enable SACRE members to actively contribute to student learning and the schools they serve. It will raise the profile of the work of SACRE for schools and within the local authorities.
- **Faith Groups** – faith members will have the opportunity to meet students and also develop interfaith dialogue with other faith communities as they meet representatives and work together. As such this project serves the wider purpose of contributing to community cohesion and social harmony.

Project Phases

There will be a number of phases to this project over the period of approximately one year.

Phase	Date	Activity
Phase One	Autumn Term 2013	<p>Beginning the enquiry in school Schools who join the project will begin an enquiry in school based on the question: What does it mean to live in a religiously diverse society? They will study census and other data and information to identify religions and beliefs in the local area, using this to develop questions for the enquiry.</p>
Phase Two	November 2013: Interfaith Week	<p>Interfaith Conference This will be held in a local school / Local Authority centre. Approx numbers: 100 students, (representatives from the 8 schools) 8 teachers.</p> <p>Various workshops will be held by SACRE and faith members to address some of the questions raised by students in their initial enquiry and to focus on the impact of belief for individuals and communities.</p> <p>There will also be a final Question Time Panel to answer any questions raised throughout the Interfaith Conference.</p>
Phase Three	November – December 2013	<p>Evaluating and Enquiring Further Delegates to present findings in school. They will evaluate enquiry findings so far and develop further questions, lines of enquiry. Email and skype could be used within school to continue discussion with faith members.</p>

Phase Four	Spring Term 2014	<p>Visiting Faith Communities Schools to visit Bradford or Manchester faith communities.</p> <p>Opportunities for visits to faith communities in Bradford OR Manchester. Links can be made with Jewish communities in Manchester as Dorothy Sadlik, (Chair of South Tyneside SACRE) is a member of Gosforth Orthodox Synagogue and has links with communities in Manchester.</p> <p>Both these visits will be used to address enquiry questions raised by students to answer the questions: What does it mean to live in a religiously diverse society? What impact does religious belief have?</p> <p>Schools will choose where and when they visit (to be discussed at Working Party meetings). Schools may choose to work and travel together. Each school will be given £250 for the visit from the bursary fund.</p>
Phase Five	Spring Term 2014	<p>Evaluate and Present Delegates to share findings with other students in school, discuss and evaluate and develop final presentation.</p>
Phase Six	Summer Term 2014	<p>Present, Reflect and Evaluate Students from schools to be invited to make presentations at a final school conference attended by SACRE members.</p>
Phase Seven	Autumn Term 2014	<p>Promoting the Project for the Future A summary and evaluation of the project, including resources and guidance for future use to be produced and shared with all schools in County Durham and South Tyneside through their network meetings, and made available to NASACRE.</p>

FUNDING

Item	Detail	Amount
Schools	Each school (maximum 8) to receive £250 for visit to Manchester or Bradford.	£2000
Working Party	To meet approximately 6 times. Cost of room booking and refreshments.	£250
Conferences	Venues and refreshments for November and Summer Term conferences. Small donation to faith members for travel costs	£750
Project Manager	Isobel Short works as the RE Inspector for Durham Education Development Service (EDS). This service receives extra funding from Durham and South Tyneside County Council for time spent by Isobel as professional support to both SACREs. Some of the NASACRE bursary will be allocated to pay for extra time needed from EDS for the management of this project and writing of report / guidance materials.	£700
Administration	To cover administration costs and printing	£300
		Total Cost = £4000