

## Durham SACRE

### The RE Inspector Report *Spring Term 2015*

#### Durham RE Networks

Spring Term 2015 RE networks are as follows:

- **PRIMARY** – Thursday 29 January (39 participants). Teachers shared some examples of good practice around the ‘Big Picture’ of Learning in RE and how to ensure pupils understand this. Overview plans for all the Easter units in the Agreed Syllabus were distributed and discussed.
- **SPECIAL** – Tuesday 27 January (4 participants). The session focussed on RE planning to meet the differing needs of students in special schools and how to use the Agreed Syllabus effectively.
- **SECONDARY** – to take place on 26 March (17 participants to date). This network will focus on the subject content for the revised GCSEs in RS and how RE contributes to pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Good practice will be shared.

I intend to run additional networks next year for NQTs/new practitioners/non-specialists of RE.

#### RE Contracts

The number of primary and secondary schools requesting subject specific support in RE remains healthy.

- I have worked with several primary schools together to develop planning and resources based on the Agreed Syllabus.
- Work in secondary schools has included subject monitoring visits, lesson observations, sample moderation of mock GCSE exams.

#### REImprove Group

This is a group of primary RE co-ordinators who want to work together to develop and share good practice in RE within and across the region. The current focus for work is engaging with local faith communities and developing guidance for schools when visiting places of worship.

This group is being supported by Regional Hub money and by myself, Karenza Passmore (NERLRC) and Natalie Chapman (Diocesan adviser). It is anticipated that the group will visit some places of worship in Newcastle and provide practical advice and guidance for other schools.

#### Christianity: The Big Picture

I am currently working with a few regional partners to develop a one day course and guidance material on Christianity. This course will focus on developing subject knowledge of teachers (from all phases) on the major beliefs of Christianity: Creation and Salvation. I am working alongside Chris Hudson (Barnabas in Schools), Karenza Passmore and Natalie Chapman. The course will run in Durham in October 2015 and also across the region and through local networks.

## **Enquiry Project: Phase 2**

There is still some funding available through NASACRE and the RE Hub for further development of the enquiry based approach in RE. This was discussed at the last SACRE Task Group with Paul Welch and Sharon Lupton and will be developed in the Summer and Autumn terms. It is hoped that further work on engaging with the diversity of faiths and beliefs can be developed.

## **New GCSEs in Religious Studies**

The revised GCSE and A level subject content for Religious Studies were published by the DfE in February 2015. Examination boards will produce their specifications for first teaching from September 2016. Students will sit the first examinations in Summer 2018. Durham will hold a conference for secondary teachers next year (Spring 2016) to help teachers prepare for this new teaching.

## **Trojan Horse Conference**

I attended the NASACRE and AREIAC joint conference in November 2014 on the Birmingham Trojan Horse issue. The key speakers were Doctor Joyce Miller and Alan Brine. There were extensive opportunities to discuss the implications of this issue for RE. I am using this to advise and offer guidance to RE co-ordinators when considering how good RE helps pupils in their SMSC development, particularly in relation to British values.

## **Alan's Blog**

Alan Brine, former HMI and RE National Adviser for Ofsted, has a blog on the RE Online website. He is raising a lot of very interesting questions about the provision for RE, including the use of big questions to explore big ideas, the debate about the purpose of RE, the implications for RE as a locally determined subject. You can find his blog on: [www.reonline.org.uk](http://www.reonline.org.uk)

## **Moving House**

The North East Religious Learning Resources Centre (NERLRC) has moved to Cuthbert House, Stonebridge, Durham, DH1 3RY (0191 375 0586). I am sure SACRE members will be very welcome to visit and help support this excellent centre. Please see Karenza for more details.

AREIAC – Association of Religious Education, Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants  
DfE – Department for Education  
NASACRE – National Association of Standing Advisory Councils for RE  
NERLRC – North East Religious Learning Resources Centre  
SMSCD – Spiritual, Moral, Social Cultural Development