

RE MATTERS

The RE Adviser Report

Summer Term 2017

RE Networks

Education Durham (formerly Education Development Service) continues to run networks each term, led and supported by the RE Adviser.

The **Secondary RE Network** for RE leaders will take place on **26 June 2017**.

AGENDA

- Living as a Humanist - Susan Walker
- The new GCSEs - an opportunity to review and share
- News and your thoughts on the latest Agreed Syllabus review:
 - o subject content
 - o key aims and purpose of study
 - o religion and belief or religion and worldviews?
- REQM/Learn Teach Lead RE

The termly **Talking RE networks** (twilights) will not run next year due to a lack of attendance.

Two **Primary RE Networks** are held each term:

- **RE Co-ordinators**. This will take place on **14 June 2017** 1.00–4.00 pm.

AGENDA

- Living as a Sikh (Cloud Singh)
- A school approach to Interfaith Week (Gillian Hall, East Stanley School)
- A new RE resource - Spirit in Stone (Elizabeth Baker)
- News and your thoughts on the latest Agreed Syllabus review
- Planning for the Autumn term and beyond

- **Talking Primary RE**. This is similar to the secondary Talking RE, is an informal after-school network where ideas and queries can be shared. This will take place on **13 July 2017** 4.00-5.30 pm.

A termly RE network exclusively for **special** schools is still offered but there is little attendance at these. Education Durham will keep offering these networks next year but as 'drop-in' sessions where RE colleagues can meet and work with the RE Adviser if they wish to.

Agreed Syllabus Review

The review of Durham's Agreed Syllabus is now well underway. The RE Adviser has been using the National Curriculum for History/ Geography as a framework for the first section.

The RE Adviser and SACRE members will keep talking to teachers in schools and taking their views and suggestions as part of the review process. The Agreed Syllabus review will be a main agenda item at all networks.

RE Conference 10 March 2017

The Durham RE Faiths Conference will be discussed in depth at the SACRE meeting. The conference was a huge success, with positive feedback from children, teachers, faith and SACRE members. Well done and thank you to all. An annual event?

SACRE members could contact schools who participated to see how they are building on the conference in their individual settings.

SMSC, British Values and RE

All schools are required to provide for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and actively promote British values. This is part of the core business of schools. The British values are:

- Democracy
- Rule of law
- Individual freedom
- Mutual respect and tolerance of other faiths and beliefs.

RE obviously has a crucial part to play in mutual respect and tolerance (this was a key aim of our conference in March). Encountering people from a variety of faiths in order to understand and appreciate diversity is vital to this process and something that good RE can provide. It is interesting that some school Ofsted reports are now identifying this as an area for development and are identifying RE as a curriculum area that needs greater emphasis. The RE Adviser will continue to promote the work of RE and SACRE as part of her role in supporting schools in SMSC.

The Northern Saints

Durham Agreed Syllabus has always included units at the primary phase on the lives, influence and impact of local saints, in particular Aiden, Cuthbert, Bede, and Hild. Recommended units are:

- What can we learn from the story of St Cuthbert? (KS1)
- What can we learn about the Christian faith through studying the lives of northern saints? (KS2)

The RE adviser has recently been revising planning materials to support these units. The focus for this work is on finding out about:

- the character and influence of the saints on the growth of Christianity in the region
- the resonance and impact this still has for people today, particularly in relation to Durham Cathedral, Holy Island, pilgrimage and worship.

The RE Adviser is working with the Advisor for History in Durham to develop a co-ordinated approach to this work. It is anticipated that all pupils will be given opportunity to visit both Durham Cathedral and Holy Island during their primary school education.