

AGENDA

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

Date: **Friday 20 November 2015**

Time: **2.00 pm**

Place: **Committee Room 1, Shire Hall, St Peter's Square,
Hereford HR1 2HX**

Notes: Please note the **time, date** and **venue** of the meeting.

For any further information please contact:

David Penrose, Democratic Services Officer

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If you would like help to understand this document, or would like it in another format, please call David Penrose, Democratic Services Officer on 01432 383690 or e-mail dpenrose@herefordshire.gov.uk in advance of the meeting.

Agenda for the Meeting of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

Membership

Chairman

Councillor J Stone

Councillor EPJ Harvey

Councillor MT McEvilly

Mrs. C Ault

Mrs L Barker

Mrs S Bryant

Venerable Tsultrim Tenzin Choesang

Mrs A. Daniel

Miss Emilie James

Mrs Gurmit Jutle

Anna Nugent

Sr. D. O'Donnell

Mrs M Williams

Ms C Wolfe

Bahai faith

Secondary School Teachers

Church of England

Buddhist

Primary School Teachers

Special School Teachers

Sikh Faith

County Ecumenical Officer, Herefordshire

Roman Catholic Church

The Bishop of Hereford Bluecoat School

Jewish Faith

Non Voting

Mrs S Catlow-Hawkins

Mrs K Mayglothling

Miss Allyson Taylor

Co-opted member

Co-opted Member

Co-opted Member

AGENDA

	Pages
1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE To receive apologies for absence.	
2. NAMED SUBSTITUTES (IF ANY) To receive details any details of Members nominated to attend the meeting in place of a Member of the Committee.	
3. MINUTES To approve and sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2015.	7 - 8
4. RESPONSE TO WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS (IF ANY) To answer any pre-received written questions from members of the public.	
5. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT 2015/2016 To review the feedback from the Agreed Syllabus launch conferences in May and June 2015, and to consider arrangements for the 2016 conferences and other opportunities for supporting the implementation of the new agreed syllabus	9 - 22
6. SACRE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2014/15 To comment on the draft SACRE Annual report for the academic year September 2014 to July 2015	23 - 30
7. RELIGIOUS STUDIES EXAMINATION RESULTS FOR 2015 (TO FOLLOW) To consider the Religious Studies examination results for 2015.	
8. UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE 2015 To receive a verbal report on the Service held in Hereford Cathedral on 20 September 2015 to mark the UN International Day of Peace.	
9. UPDATE ON ANY NEW INITIATIVES IN RE To consider a report on recent national reports and their implications for the teaching of religious education in Herefordshire schools.	31 - 34
10. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS To note that the next SACRE meeting will be held at 2.00pm at the Shire Hall, Hereford on Friday 18 March 2016.	

The Public's Rights to Information and Attendance at Meetings

YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO: -

- Attend all Council, Cabinet, Committee and Sub-Committee meetings unless the business to be transacted would disclose 'confidential' or 'exempt' information.
- Inspect agenda and public reports at least five clear days before the date of the meeting.
- Inspect minutes of the Council and all Committees and Sub-Committees and written statements of decisions taken by the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Members for up to six years following a meeting.
- Inspect background papers used in the preparation of public reports for a period of up to four years from the date of the meeting. (A list of the background papers to a report is given at the end of each report). A background paper is a document on which the officer has relied in writing the report and which otherwise is not available to the public.
- Access to a public Register stating the names, addresses and wards of all Councillors with details of the membership of Cabinet and of all Committees and Sub-Committees.
- Have a reasonable number of copies of agenda and reports (relating to items to be considered in public) made available to the public attending meetings of the Council, Cabinet, Committees and Sub-Committees.
- Have access to a list specifying those powers on which the Council have delegated decision making to their officers identifying the officers concerned by title.
- Copy any of the documents mentioned above to which you have a right of access, subject to a reasonable charge (20p per sheet subject to a maximum of £5.00 per agenda plus a nominal fee of £1.50 for postage). Agenda can be found at www.herefordshire.gov.uk/meetings
- Please note that filming, photography and recording of meetings is permitted provided that it does not disrupt the business of the meeting.
- The reporting of meetings is subject to the law and it is the responsibility of those doing the reporting to ensure that they comply.
- Access to this summary of your rights as members of the public to attend meetings of the Council, Cabinet, Committees and Sub-Committees and to inspect and copy documents.

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

SHIRE HALL, ST PETER'S SQUARE, HEREFORD, HR1 2HX.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

In the event of a fire or emergency the alarm bell will ring continuously.

You should vacate the building in an orderly manner through the nearest available fire exit.

You should then proceed to the Assembly Point which is located in the car park at the front of the building. A check will be undertaken to ensure that those recorded as present have vacated the building following which further instructions will be given.

Please do not allow any items of clothing, etc. to obstruct any of the exits.

Do not delay your vacation of the building by stopping or returning to collect coats or other personal belongings.

HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) held at Committee Room 1, Shire Hall, St Peter's Square, Hereford HR1 2HX on Friday 20 March 2015 at 2.00 pm

Present: Councillor J Stone (Chairman)

Councillor CNH Attwood, Mrs L Barker, Councillor EMK Chave, Mrs A Nugent, Sr. D. O'Donnell, Miss A Taylor and Mrs M Williams

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mrs S Catlow-Hawkins, Mrs A Daniel and Mrs E James.

2. NAMED SUBSTITUTES (IF ANY)

None.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 21 November were approved and signed as a correct record.

4. RESPONSE TO WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS (IF ANY)

There were no written public questions.

5. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE NEW AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RE

The RE Consultant provided the Conference with an update on progress on the Agreed Syllabus Review. The following points were made:

- That there would be an exemplar unit available for secondary schools at the launch of the syllabus. All units would be finalised within the next twelve months
- That the launches for both the Primary and Secondary schools would be held at Whitecross School in Hereford

Resolved: That the update be noted.

6. 2015/16 SACRE BUDGET UPDATE

It was noted that there was a standstill budget for SACRE for 2015/16 of £5k, which made it difficult to hold more than two meetings a year. It also meant that there was a shortfall for the introduction of the new RE Syllabus, but that funds would be made available from allocated budgets and the sale of the syllabus.

Resolved: That the report be noted

7. RELIGIOUS STUDIES EXAMINATION RESULTS 2014

SACRE received a report on the Religious Studies exam results 2014. It was noted that:

- The number of entries for GCE A level Religious Studies in the county had been lower than the previous year with 76 in 2014 compared to 95 in 2013. This was reflected in the number of entries for GCE AS level Religious Studies in the county which had been 16 in 2014 compared to 26 in 2013 (19 in 2012; 25 in 2011; 18 in 2010).
- Of this year's full A level entries, 100% achieved grade E or above, compared to 99.8% nationally. The AS course saw 100% of learners achieve grade A*-E, compared to 86.4% nationally. Hereford Sixth Form College was the only centre to offer this qualification. The percentage of A*-A grades at A level and A-B grades at AS level in the county outperformed the national figure.

Resolved: the Religious Studies A level examination results for 2014 be noted.

8. UPDATE ON ANY NEW INITIATIVES OR NEWS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SACRE received a report on new initiatives or news in religious education. The RE Consultant highlighted the following areas:

- That the consultation process around changes to A levels had received a good level of feedback, but that received from schools had been higher for religious studies than for any other subject. A large number of responses were part of a campaign by the British Humanist Association.
-
- Based on the draft proposals, there would be ~~no~~ limited changes ~~at~~ to the GCSE criteria. As a result of the consultation, significant changes had been made to the A level criteria, enabling schools to continue teaching philosophy and ethics alongside the study of religion
- There had been a reintroduction by the Department of bursaries for those training as RE teachers.
- That World Peace Day would be celebrated at Hereford Cathedral on 20 September.

Resolved: That the report be noted

9. DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It was noted that the dates of future meetings were

- 20 November 2015
- 18 March 2016

The meeting ended at 15:10

CHAIRMAN



MEETING:	STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
MEETING DATE:	20 November 2015
TITLE OF REPORT:	PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT 2015/2016
REPORT BY:	RE Consultant – RE Today

1. Classification

Open

2. Purpose

- 2.1 To review the feedback from the Agreed Syllabus launch conferences in May and June 2015, and to consider arrangements for the 2016 conferences and other opportunities for supporting the implementation of the new agreed syllabus

3. Recommendation

THAT: To note the feedback from the 2015 launch conferences and comment on the proposed 2016 conferences.

4. Key Considerations

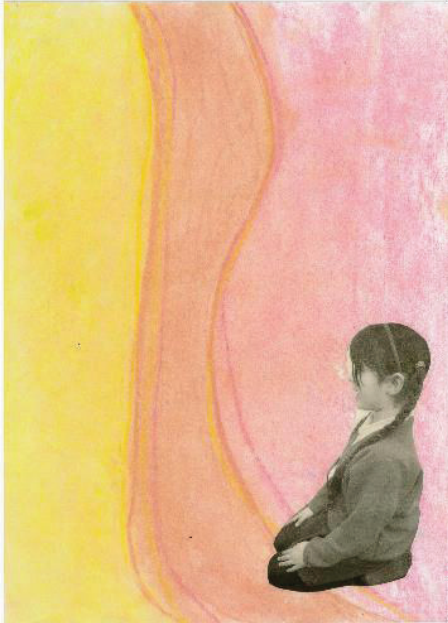
- 4.1 The annual conferences are the sole RE CPD opportunity supported and promoted by SACRE to enable the implementation of the agreed syllabus
- 4.2 There is a long tradition of annual conferences in Herefordshire, and the 2016 conferences continue the recent links with Worcestershire SACRE, with whom Herefordshire shares an agreed syllabus.

5. Appendices

- 5.1 Appendix 1 - Herefordshire SACRE Primary and Secondary RE Conferences 2015
Appendix 2 – Herefordshire & Worcs SACRE Primary and Secondary RE Conferences 2016

6. Background Papers

- 6.1 None identified.



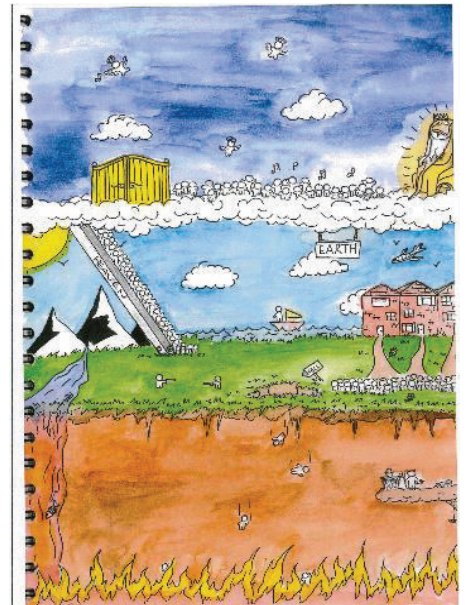
Tuesday
2nd June
2015

A balance of practical ideas and inspiration

Primary RE
Conference

Planning great RE
Achieving more in RE
Spiritual development
Developing questioning
Making progress in RE

Introducing the new
Herefordshire Agreed
Syllabus 2015



Venue:

Whitecross High School
Hereford **HR4 0RN**

Fee
£95

Or £160 for two teachers from the same school

Introducing the new Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus ***Making the most of RE: better teaching, better learning***

Tuesday 2nd June 2015

9.30am-3.30pm

(Registration and refreshments from 9.00am)

This one-day conference will introduce teachers to the new Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus. It will focus on practical classroom ideas and strategies, enabling teachers to get to grips with the new syllabus and how to apply it in their schools.

8.45 Registration and refreshments

9.30-11.00 Planning great RE using the new syllabus

This session will consider the place and value of RE for pupils, highlighting the developments and opportunities in the new syllabus. It will demonstrate how to use the syllabus to plan and teach engaging, thoughtful RE

Break - refreshments

11.30-1.00 Excellent teaching and learning

This session will offer at least six high quality teaching and learning ideas, based on the syllabus, to deepen pupils' understanding and skills, and promote spiritual development.

Lunch

2.00-3.30 Achieving more in RE

This session will look at methods of assessment and provide examples of ways to enable pupils to make good progress in RE.

On the day, you will receive a hard copy and a CD-ROM of the syllabus, plus exemplar schemes of work. Copies of all resources used on the day will be available to take away, and electronic copies available to download afterwards. A wide range of resources will be available to purchase or order on the day.

Who is it for?

The conference is aimed at teachers of RE from primary schools, including subject leaders, HLTAs and head teachers. It will also be valuable for governors to find out about the new syllabus and explore best practice in RE.

Aims

- To introduce the new Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus for RE, with its increased flexibility and extra support for planning RE
- To provide practical strategies, guidance and resources for teachers and subject leaders in planning creative, challenging, thoughtful RE to promote the personal development of pupils
- To inspire teachers and help them to develop their confidence in planning and delivering RE, whether in the context of cross-curriculum themes, RE days or discrete RE lessons.
- To model examples of thoughtful RE, challenging all pupils and promoting deeper thinking

Fee:

£95 or £160 for two teachers from the same school, including refreshments, lunch and resources
(Contact mark@retoday.org.uk for deals for three teachers or more from the same school)

Booking details attached. Please send to mark@retoday.org.uk or post to RE Today Services, 1020 Bristol Road, Birmingham, B29 6LB

**Herefordshire SACRE Primary RE
Agreed Syllabus Launch 2015
EVALUATIONS
67 delegates, 56 forms received**

	excellent	good	satisfactory
Session 1: Planning great RE using the syllabus (56)	70%	30%	
Session 2: Excellent teaching and learning (56)	88%	12%	
Session 3: Achieving more in RE (53)	74%	24%	2%
Venue: how do you rate it? (54)	50%	46%	4%
Overall value of the conference (55)	80%	20%	

Comments on the revised syllabus:

- Looks simple and easy to use. We are excited about delivering it.
- Great that there is lots of overlap. Seems manageable to move from old to new. Everything very easy to find/use in folder. Document is great.
- I really like it! Think it is easy to use and will be easier to implement, particularly splitting lower and upper KS2.
- Clearly laid out; like the way key questions are related to learning outcomes/suggested content. As an early years teacher I like the terminology used for assessment
- Clear, concise – very helpful for all year groups.
- Detailed and clearly laid out – love the colour coding. Glad to see principal religions mapped to different year groups.
- Well thought through – logical and accessible.
- Workable, easy to read and easy to explain to colleagues
- A great syllabus full of ideas!
- Appears to be simplified and straightforward but at the same time allows for more depth to be studied in each section.
- It seems to be much clearer than the old syllabus – more suggestions of content for learning
- Well thought through – logical and accessible.
- Pleased with the look of it and how comprehensive it is (as a new RE co-ordinator). Exemplar planning very much appreciated.
- I like the format, outcomes and content, but it is quite full-on, especially to now inform other members of staff about

Any further comments about the conference?

- Very impressed with the facilities and having dietary needs catered for!
- Great, thanks. Loved the two people delivering it
- Always a delight to spend an entire day on RE!
- Very informative and useful as RE co-ordinator
- Lots to take in but clearly presented. Like the way staging planning was suggested. Suggesting activities relating to the key questions was very useful – really enjoyed KS1 story lesson.
- Well presented. Good ratio of info and activities
- Clear, well-paced
- I thought there might be more on assessment to run alongside the new syllabus
- Comprehensive and v useful – looking forward to seeing the rest of the scheme of work
- Great resources and examples of teaching activities

- Parking was a slight issue, and limited toilets led to queueing. Lovely lunch
- Well organised and a very good venue. Plenty of space and breaks and interesting sessions. Timing worked well too.
- Always good to spend time devoted to one (of many) subjects. Good to network too. Good resources provided.
- I have found the activities and ideas for teaching very useful and enjoyed the games and could see how to use them in class. Timing was good although a shorter lunch and earlier finishing time would suit

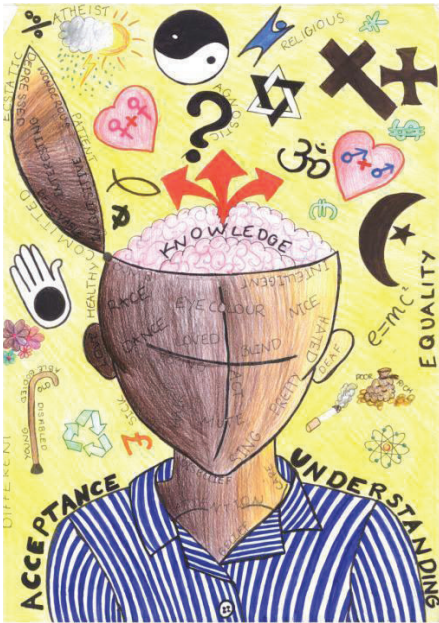
Actions you will take to follow up from this conference

- Discuss with rest of staff implications and plan for whole school autumn and spring. Aim to have 2-year rolling plan from end spring 2016
- Organise staff meetings to relay the information; review resources to support new syllabus
- Review and update action plan for RE
- Lots of new staff/NQTs starting in Sept so will need to plan training with Head. 12 steps very useful!
- Review timetabling for RE, long-term plan for mixed age classes, Consider SoW – redraft in school or purchase?
- Will review whole school two year rolling programme and adjust for new syllabus. Will support NQT and staff with changes and resource requirements.

Suggestions/requests for future support in Herefordshire

- Long-term plan examples for mixed year classes
- List of names/contacts of people within the authority from different faiths and beliefs – for visits/support/expertise
- Links/contacts with practising members of different faiths... Multifaith days for Y6 at Whitecross have been superb but input throughout children's school lives from 'real' people would bring RE alive
- Contacts for faith visitors (many requests for this)
- More frequent network meetings
- A revival of network meetings would be great, should funds allow
- Network meetings for primary, sharing best practice/ideas
- A resource bank like the library service – where you can borrow a topic or study box etc
- List of dos and don'ts for each religion
- Assessment in RE using new syllabus
- Some suggestions of what syllabus means when it says 'suitable' poem/song/painting
- Details of courses to help staff who are inexperienced at teaching RE
- Assessment – how to in school!
- Background info on humanism
- Develop use of conferences to promote good teaching and learning activities and ideas that support the new curriculum
- Guidance ensuring we are aware of and meeting requirements from SIAMS esp for VA and VC schools
- Maybe a resource-swap at the conference – we've got multiples of some but none of others! Follow-up meeting next year to share practice. What has worked well? What hasn't?
- Focused sessions on KS1 and KS2

Stephen Pett
RE Today Services



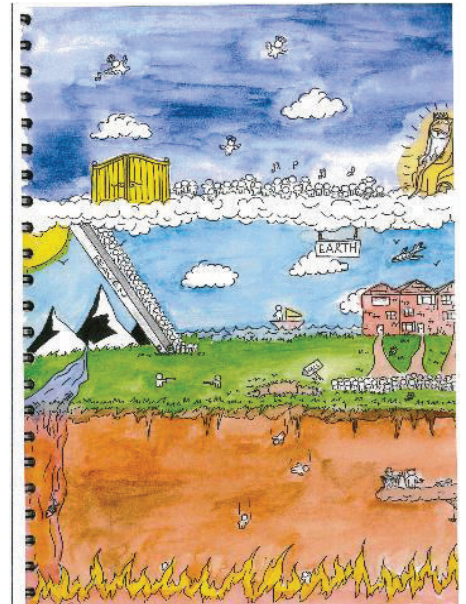
Monday
15th June
2015

A balance of practical ideas and inspiration

Secondary RE Conference

*Planning great RE
Achieving more in RE
Spiritual development
Developing questioning and deeper thinking
Making progress in RE*

Introducing the new Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus 2015



Venue:
Whitecross High School
HR4 0RN

Fee
£95

Or £160 for two teachers from the same school

Introducing the new Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus ***Making the most of RE: better teaching, better learning***

Monday 15th June 2015

9.30am-3.30pm

(Registration and refreshments from 8.45am)

This one-day conference will introduce teachers to the new Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus. It will focus on practical classroom ideas and strategies, enabling teachers to get to grips with the new syllabus and how to apply it in their schools.

8.45 Registration and refreshments

9.30-11.00 Making the most of RE: using the new syllabus

This session will consider the place and value of RE for pupils, highlighting the developments and opportunities in the new syllabus. It will show ways of using the syllabus to plan and teach engaging, thoughtful, challenging RE

Break – refreshments

11.30-1.00 Excellent teaching and learning

This session will offer at least six high quality teaching and learning ideas, based on the syllabus, to deepen pupils' understanding and skills, and promote spiritual development.

Lunch

2.00-3.30 Achieving more in RE

This session will look at methods of assessment and provide examples of ways to enable pupils to make good progress in RE.

On the day, you will receive a hard copy and a CD-ROM of the syllabus, plus exemplar schemes of work. Copies of all resources used on the day will be available to take away, and electronic copies available to download afterwards.

A wide range of resources from RE Today Services will be available to purchase or order on the day.

Aims

- To introduce the new Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus for RE, with its increased flexibility and extra support for planning RE
- To provide practical strategies, guidance and resources for teachers and subject leaders in planning creative, challenging, engaging RE to promote the personal development of pupils
- To model examples of thoughtful RE, challenging all pupils and promoting deeper thinking
- To explore ways of promoting and assessing progress in RE

Fee:

£95 or £160 for two teachers from the same school, including refreshments, lunch and resources (Contact mark@retoday.org.uk for deals for three teachers or more from the same school!)

Booking details attached. Please send to mark@retoday.org.uk or post to RE Today Services, 1020 Bristol Road, Birmingham, B29 6LB

**Herefordshire SACRE Secondary RE
Agreed Syllabus Launch 2015
EVALUATION FORM: 12 attended; 12 forms completed**

	excellent	good	satisfactory
Session 1: Planning great RE using the syllabus	100%		
Session 2: Achievement and assessment in RE	66%	34%	
Session 3: Excellent teaching and learning	92%	8%	
Venue: how do you rate it?	92%	8%	
Overall value of the conference	92%	8%	
Representative sample of feedback comments:			
Comments on the revised syllabus:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helpful to see the overview and changes • Excellent – like the assessment system • The syllabus is ‘user-friendly’, the new questions are interesting and will engage students. It will be good to see the resources when they go online. • I think that the revised learning outcomes are excellent • Nice to see modern content • Excellent syllabus – makes sense • Key questions have greater clarity for a non-specialist! 			
Any further comments about the conference?			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good size of group to generate discussion • Thank you – very helpful and informative use of lesson ideas • It’s always good to get together with other RE teachers to share ideas. The teaching resources are excellent and it is useful to actually take part in the activities • I enjoyed the session regarding taxonomies • Very well run/presented by Stephen 			
Actions you will take to follow up from this conference			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Really helpful to plan my entire KS3 and 4 SoWs! • Go back to re-write schemes of work to comply with new syllabus • Review and update SoW to take account of new questions 			
Suggestions/requests for future support in Herefordshire			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowing if my SoWs are fit for purpose • Extend SACRE to include list of reps who would visit schools • More meetings! • Contact list for visits/visitors 			

*Stephen Pett
RE Today Services*



**Tuesday 7th
June 2016**
**Wednesday 8th
June 2016**

*Implementing the 2015
agreed syllabus with a
balance of practical
ideas and inspiration*

*Thoughtful,
knowledgeable RE
Using texts and stories
Create, talk, sing!
Speakers' Corner*

Primary RE Conference

*Inspiring RE: creative,
thoughtful, rigorous*



Venues:

Tuesday 7th June
Worcester

This conference will be repeated on
Wednesday 8th June
Hereford

Fee
£100

Or £175 for two teachers
from the same school

Inspiring RE: creative, thoughtful, rigorous

Tuesday 7th June 2016 Worcester

Wednesday 8th June 2016 Hereford

9.30am-3.30pm (Registration and refreshments from 8.45am)

This one-day conference will build on the launch last year of the 2015 Worcestershire and Herefordshire Agreed Syllabuses. It will focus on practical classroom ideas and strategies, exploring ways of making the most of the new syllabus and see how it is being applied in schools.

8.45 Registration and refreshments

9.30-10.45 Thoughtful, knowledgeable RE: strategies to get pupils thinking and learning

In this session we will try out a range of strategies for getting pupils to think hard and learn lots. Engaging ideas and resources will be explored to open up some of the key questions and enable pupils to achieve the syllabus outcomes.

Break - refreshments

11.15-12.30 Excellent teaching and learning

Choose one workshop from the following:

A. Teaching Christianity, Islam and Judaism with 4-7s

Open up three religions with active learning: high quality teaching and learning ideas, based on the syllabus, to promote children's understanding, skills and spiritual development.

B. Teaching religions through texts and stories (7-11s)

Creative ideas for opening up key sacred texts and stories, unlocking their meanings and mysteries, and reflecting on their impact. Simple strategies for helping pupils to develop skills of interpretation and reflection, using texts in Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism.

Lunch

1.30-2.10 Speakers' corner

In this session, delegates will share ideas, practice, lessons learned in implementing the syllabus; other delegates will visit their corner to listen to/engage with their mini-talks.

2.15-3.15 Create, talk sing! Getting creative for inspiring RE

This session will look at ways of using the performing and visual arts to promote excellent RE and support pupils in deepening their understanding of religions and beliefs

Copies of all resources used on the day will be available to take away, and electronic copies available to download afterwards. A wide range of resources will be available to purchase or order on the day.

Who is it for?

The conference is aimed at teachers of RE from primary schools, including subject leaders, TAs and head teachers. It will also be valuable for governors to find out about how the new syllabus is being implemented, as well as to explore best practice in RE. **Middle school teachers can attend the primary conference or the secondary conference on Thursday 24th June.**

Aims

- To support schools in implementing the new Worcestershire and Herefordshire Agreed Syllabuses for RE, with its increased flexibility and extra support for planning RE
- To provide practical strategies, guidance and resources for teachers and subject leaders in planning creative, thoughtful, rigorous RE to promote the personal development of pupils
- To model examples of thoughtful RE, challenging all pupils and promoting deeper thinking

Fee:

£100 or £175 for two teachers from the same school, including refreshments, lunch and resources

Booking form attached.

Inspiring RE: creative, thoughtful, rigorous

23rd June 2016

9.30am-3.30pm

(Registration and refreshments from 8.45am)

This one-day conference will build on the launch last year of the 2015 Herefordshire and Worcestershire Agreed Syllabuses. It will focus on practical classroom ideas and strategies, exploring ways of making the most of the new syllabus and see how it is being applied in schools.

8.45 Registration and refreshments

9.30-10.45 Deeper learning in RE

This session will use some of the recent findings of neuroscience and psychology to consider ways to make pupils' learning more effective. Building on the key questions approach in the agreed syllabus, and reflecting the additional demands of two religions at GCSE, we will explore ideas for helping pupils to deepen their understanding in RE.

Break - refreshments

11.15-12.30 SOLO taxonomy: helping pupils make excellent progress

This session will look at a clear, practical way of structuring learning to enable pupils to make progress. Joanne Harris, experienced HoD and member of NATRE Executive, will give detailed examples and evidence of pupil progress from her own school, from Y7 to GCSE.

Lunch

1.30-2.15 TeachMeet – speakers' corner!

An opportunity to hear how some teachers have been putting the new syllabus into practice. Brief input – maximum number of inspiring ideas!

2.20-3.30 Teaching Christianity: some new ideas

A theological approach to teaching Christianity, preparing the groundwork for excellent understanding for GCSE and A-level. Ideas, resources, activities, using text, art, music, video.

Copies of all resources used on the day will be available to take away, and electronic copies available to download afterwards. A wide range of resources from RE Today Services will be available to purchase or order on the day.

Speakers: Stephen Pett (Lat Blaylock/Kate Christopher) Joanne Harris

Fee:

£100 or £175 for two teachers from the same school, including refreshments, lunch and resources

Booking form attached. Please send to mark@retoday.org.uk or post to RE Today Services, 40 Imperial Court, Sovereign Road, Kings Norton Business Centre, Birmingham, B30 3ES



MEETING:	STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
MEETING DATE:	20 November 2015
TITLE OF REPORT:	HEREFORDSHIRE SACRE ANNUAL REPORT – ACADEMIC YEAR 2014/15
REPORT BY:	RE Consultant – RE Today

1. Classification

Open

2. Key Decision

This is not an executive decision

3. Wards Affected

County-wide

4. Purpose

- 4.1 To receive the SACRE Annual Report for the academic year September 2014 to July 2015.

5. Recommendation

THAT: Subject to any comments by SACRE the Annual Report 2014/15 be approved and a copy be forwarded to NASACRE

6. Appendices

Appendix 1 – SACRE Annual Report 2014/15

7. Background Papers

None identified.

**Herefordshire
Standing Advisory Council on
Religious Education
(SACRE)**

**Draft SACRE Annual Report for the Academic
Year 2014/15**

Chairman's Foreword

I am grateful to Stephen Pett and Bonnie Griffiths for their support and advice during the year and in particular for all the work carried out by Stephen Pett in preparing the new Agreed Syllabus. It will be good to be working more closely with Worcestershire SACRE now that we are following the same syllabus and teachers from our two counties will have more opportunities to meet. Finally, I want to thank all our Herefordshire RE teachers for their hard work during the year and giving RE the high profile it deserves in our schools. We must never lose sight of the importance of RE in our changing world, however limited our resources

1 Herefordshire SACRE Annual Report 2014-2015

The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) is a statutory body set up to advise the Local Authority on matters related to religious education and collective worship. Its members are drawn from teachers, Local Authority representatives including Councillors, faith representatives from the Church of England and a range of Christian denominations, and representatives from other religious groups represented in the region.

SACRE's key functions include monitoring the provision and quality of RE, and providing advice and support on the effective teaching of RE in accordance with the agreed syllabus. This includes advice on methods of teaching, choice of teaching material and provision of teacher training. This is primarily done through the review and implementation of the locally agreed syllabus, a process which is required every five years. This is followed by on-going monitoring of its effectiveness in the light of changing national education policy.

SACRE is grateful to Herefordshire County Council for its continuing support, but notes that in the current reduction in funding across the Council, SACRE has not been spared. SACRE endeavours to offer maximum support to schools through its use of conferences and network meetings. However, it has had to reduce the number of SACRE meetings from three to two, replacing one with a meeting of a 'strategy group', who undertake to prepare reports or undertake research to move the business of SACRE forward.

SACRE were grateful for the support of Bonnie Griffiths during 2014-2015, School Improvement Advisor, who was the LA officer on SACRE.

Herefordshire SACRE met twice in 2014-2015. The minutes of these meetings are available from David Penrose, Clerk to SACRE (dpenrose@herefordshire.gov.uk).

2 Supporting RE in Herefordshire

The key activities of SACRE over the period 2014-15 have focused on maintaining support for teachers through the development of a revised agreed syllabus for RE, launched in summer 2015. The SACRE meeting in November 2014 made the decision to bring forward the review of the agreed syllabus to 2015 instead of the expected 2016 renewal date. This was in the light of the changes to the National Curriculum and the parallel Review of Religious Education produced by the RE Council of England and Wales in October 2013, and the national move to remove assessment levels.

SACRE opted to purchase the 'model' syllabus from RE Today Services. The advantages of this are that it was being developed through 2014-2015, allowing Herefordshire SACRE and Herefordshire teachers some input into its development; Worcestershire SACRE have also opted for this syllabus, allowing the possibility of cross-county CPD, increasing the options for teachers to attend network meetings and conferences.

The 2016 syllabus builds on the 2006-2011 syllabus by making use of key questions, constructed around the broad strands of 'Believing, Expressing, Living' that is at the heart of the 2011 syllabus, and following 'threads' of questions through the year groups, as a form of spiral curriculum. It offers a clear planning process to support teachers in developing excellent RE, making use of the unit outlines. These outlines give helpful recommended content for each key question, as well as clear outcomes, banded as 'emerging, expected and exceeding' to reflect the current move towards 'mastery' learning and assessment. The individual unit outcomes build towards end of key stage outcomes derived from the RE Council's 2013 *Curriculum Framework for RE in England*, offering the best available nationally comparable measure of achievement.

The syllabus offers both systematic and thematic units of study, and is flexible in its approach to assessment, allowing schools to use their own methods in relation to assessing progress towards the end of key stage outcomes.

SACRE commented on the draft syllabus in the March meeting, offered guidance on the introductory pages, and the Chair provided the Foreword. The syllabus was printed and launched in the summer term, with schools who were unable to attend receiving a copy in the post, with an accompanying letter from the School Improvement Advisor.

3 SACRE Primary RE Conference to introduce the new Agreed Syllabus: 2 June 2015

Introducing the new Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus 2015: Whitecross School, Hereford.

67 delegates attended the primary launch conference at Whitecross School. 56 feedback forms were received and 80% of those rated the conference as excellent, and 20% as good.

The conference was delivered by Stephen Pett and Fiona Moss from RE Today Services. Session one was on 'Planning great RE using the new syllabus', offering an introduction to the changes and supporting teachers to make sense of how to use it effectively. The second session focused on ideas and strategies for excellent teaching and learning that unpack the unit questions, and the afternoon session looked at how to support pupils in making progress in RE.

Comments from head teachers, teachers and other delegates about the value of the conference included:

- Great, thanks. Loved the two people delivering it
- Always a delight to spend an entire day on RE!
- Very informative and useful as RE co-ordinator
- Lots to take in but clearly presented. Like the way staging planning was suggested. Suggesting activities relating to the key questions was very useful – really enjoyed KS1 story lesson.
- Great resources and examples of teaching activities
- Well organised and a very good venue. Plenty of space and breaks and interesting sessions. Timing worked well too.
- Always good to spend time devoted to one (of many) subjects. Good to network too. Good resources provided.

Teachers also commented on their initial response to the new syllabus:

- Looks simple and easy to use. We are excited about delivering it.
- I really like it! Think it is easy to use and will be easier to implement, particularly splitting lower and upper KS2.
- Clearly laid out; like the way key questions are related to learning outcomes/suggested content. As an early years teacher I like the terminology used for assessment
- Detailed and clearly laid out – love the colour coding. Glad to see principal religions mapped to different year groups.
- Appears to be simplified and straightforward but at the same time allows for more depth to be studied in each section.
- Well thought through – logical and accessible.

Many teachers commented on how they were planning to implement the syllabus in their schools. They also suggested ideas for future support, prominent among which was the desire for a county list of contacts from within faith communities, for visits to school and to places of worship.

SACRE are grateful to Whitecross Hereford High School for hosting the conference.

4 Secondary RE Conference: 15 June 2015

Introducing the new Herefordshire Agreed Syllabus 2015: Whitecross School, Hereford

12 delegates attended, and 92% of these rated the day excellent, and 8% as good. Sessions introduced the syllabus and explored its implications for planning at KS3 and supporting learning at KS4, looking at methods of assessment after the removal of levels, and trying out some teaching and learning ideas.

Teachers commented on the value of the conference:

- Thank you – very helpful and informative use of lesson ideas
- It's always good to get together with other RE teachers to share ideas. The teaching resources are excellent and it is useful to actually take part in the activities
- I enjoyed the session regarding taxonomies
- Very well run/presented by Stephen

Their feedback on the revised syllabus included the following comments:

- Helpful to see the overview and changes
- Excellent – like the assessment system
- The syllabus is 'user-friendly', the new questions are interesting and will engage students. It will be good to see the resources when they go online.
- I think that the revised learning outcomes are excellent
- Nice to see modern content
- Excellent syllabus – makes sense
- Key questions have greater clarity for a non-specialist!

Once again, SACRE are grateful to Whitecross Hereford High School for hosting the conference.

6 Commentary on exam results summer 2014

[To follow]

7 Quality of teaching in Herefordshire.

SACRE has been unable to monitor quality of teaching in Herefordshire this year. Ways of monitoring will be considered by SACRE in 2015-2016 as part of the monitoring of the impact of the revised agreed syllabus.

8 Future support for RE

On-going support for teachers, developing their ability to plan, using the new agreed syllabus planning steps, and for improving teaching and learning in RE, is planned for 2015-2016, including:

- Annual SACRE conference for primary teachers, focusing on ideas for teaching and learning, based on the new syllabus, including planning, assessment and deeper learning in four religions, in partnership with Worcestershire SACRE.
- Annual SACRE secondary conference, in partnership with Worcestershire SACRE, focusing on supporting pupils in deepening their understanding of religion, in preparation for the revised GCSE specifications, and ways of developing assessment and planning for progress.
- School Survey to assess impact and value of revised agreed syllabus.

9 Other matters:

SACRE considered several pertinent issues over the year, including:

- The on-going impact of wide-ranging cuts to the Council and the implications for how much support SACRE can realistically offer to schools
- The national consultation on reform of GCSE and A-level Religious Studies.
- The exam results for GCSE (full and short course), AS and A-level Religious Studies in Herefordshire, in relation to continuing discussion on the impact of Government policy on the provision of RE, including the English Baccalaureate. SACRE considered the proposed reform to GCSE and A-level Religious Studies, and members of SACRE contributed to the national consultation on this.

Cllr John Stone
Chair of SACRE
November 2015



MEETING:	STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)
MEETING DATE:	20 November 2015
TITLE OF REPORT:	UPDATE ON ANY NEW INITIATIVES IN RE
REPORT BY:	RE Consultant – RE Today

1. Classification

Open

2. Key Decision

This is not an executive decision

3. Wards Affected

County-wide

4. Purpose

- 4.1 To receive an update on recent national reports and RE initiatives and their implications for the teaching of religious education in Herefordshire schools.

5. Recommendation

THAT: The report be noted

6. Appendices

Appendix 1 – National RE News

7. Background Papers

None identified.

Herefordshire SACRE Item 11 National RE News

1 Full course GCSE Religious Studies entries rise, but number of schools with no RS students at all is increasing

The number of pupils in England and Wales taking GCSE Religious Studies full course has risen again this year, up 5.3% against 2014 to 283,756. This echoes the increase in A Level entries, which are up 6.5% this year compared with 2014.

However the removal of short courses from Department for Education (DfE) performance tables is having a serious and negative impact on the number of pupils choosing to take RS at GCSE level, with an increasing number of schools having no pupils at all taking the subject.

DfE performance tables do not take account of results in short courses. The GCSE short course RS, which had been very popular in the past and provided a reward for schools who provided RE for all, has suffered as a result. The short course is delivered at GCSE standard but covers half the content of a full course and is therefore worth half a GCSE. Changes in entries for short courses have a disproportionately significant impact on RS: almost two thirds of all short course GCSEs taken in England and Wales are in RS.

The damage to take-up of the RS GCSE short course comes at a time when RS is otherwise a subject growing in popularity and when the government is rightly emphasising the importance for young people to have knowledge and understanding of religions and non-religious beliefs. In addition, reforms to GCSE RS make it an increasingly attractive and rigorous subject, while increasing numbers of pupils are carrying RS on to A-level.

The key outcomes for Religious Education in England and Wales at KS4 in 2015 are as follows:

- There were 283,756 entries for the full course in GCSE RS, a rise of 5.3% from 2014 (269,494)
- There were 86,679 entries for the short course in GCSE RS, a decline of 26.8% from 2014 (118,481)
- There were 370,435 entries for GCSE RS (combined short and full courses), a decline of 4.5% from 2014 (387,915)
- In 2014 there were 1,197 schools making no entries for any RS qualification; a rise from 268 in 2010.
- 29.6% of entries for the full course in GCSE RS were awarded an A or an A*
- 11.8% of entries for the short course in GCSE RS were awarded an A or an A*

When RS GCSE entries in England over the past four years are compared to those in Wales (where the EBacc and the average point score at GCSE have not been adopted as school performance measures), the following patterns emerge:

England

Take up of the GCSE RS short course has fallen from 211,269 in 2012 to 68,890 in 2015 (-67.3%)
GCSE RS full course entries in England have increased from 216,182 in 2012 to 271,917 in 2015 (25.7%)

Wales

Short course GCSE RS entries have declined slightly from 19,182 in 2012 to 17,789 in 2015 (-7.3%)
RS GCSE full course entries have increased from 10,409 in 2012 to 11,839 in 2015 (13.7%)

Overall this means that compared with 2012 over 85,000 fewer pupils in England will complete key stage 4 this year having not gaining a qualification in Religious Studies (a drop of 20.3%).

This echoes research by the National Association of Teachers of RE (published in November 2013) that found that a third of community schools and over a third of academies without a religious character are still failing to meet their legal or contractual agreements to provide religious education for this key age group.

2 New report on the place and future of RE

The result of an extended research project and the Westminster Faith Debates, a report called *A New Settlement: Religion and Belief in Schools* was launched in July. Written by Professor Linda Woodhead and The Right Honourable Charles Clarke.

<http://faithdebates.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/A-New-Settlement-for-Religion-and-Belief-in-schools.pdf>

There are implications for SACREs, and we might consider discussing this in the spring.

3 NATRE and REC at the Party Conferences

Ask your Prospective Parliamentary candidates to sign the pledge!

NATRE and the REC have been present at all the Party conferences and getting MPs to sign the **Make Religious Education Flourish** pledge.

I pledge to support good quality RE for pupils in all schools, academies and colleges and join the All Party Parliamentary group on Religious Education.

How does my local MP sign the pledge?

All they have to do is to view the pledge here: <http://bit.ly/1MDCpuc> and email william@pbpoliticalconsulting.com to sign up.

What do I have to do to encourage my local MP to sign the pledge?

Contact your local MP via email. You might want to adapt and personalise the following words:

Email template to send to MPs to sign the RE pledge.

It would be great to hear back from you to say you have sent your local MP an email and share with us any responses you may have, so please so let us know by emailing exec@natre.org.uk.

4 GCSE and A-level Specifications

Latest news available on NATRE website

<http://www.natre.org.uk/news/latest-news/examination-reform-2015-your-one-stop-shop-for-all-the-materials-published-so-far-1-1/>

Below is a timeline of the process for the specifications for the new Religious Studies GCSE and A-level.

Please note that these dates may be subject to change.

- **3 August 2015** - Awarding organisations submit draft specifications, sample assessment material and assessment strategy to Ofqual for accreditation.
- **7-10 September 2015** - Ofqual panels of subject experts review awarding organisations' submissions.
- **1 October 2015** - Ofqual decision on the accreditation of specifications.
- **8-9 October 2015** - Ofqual inform AOs of their decision on accreditation. AOs then make any necessary changes and submit revised specification and assessment material for re-accreditation.
- **Late Autumn 2015** - Accredited specifications submitted to schools to allow teachers enough time to prepare for first teaching in September 2016.
- **September 2016** - First teaching of new RS GCSE specifications in schools

5 RE for REAL – report from Goldsmiths College

What should young people leave school knowing about religion and belief?

This is the question posed by a new national study of teaching and learning about religion and belief in schools in England. Conducted by the Faiths and Civil Society Unit at Goldsmiths, University of London, and funded by the Culham St Gabriel's Trust. Researchers asked 330 people - employers and teachers, students, and parents in 19 schools what they think should be the purpose, content, benefits and structure of teaching and learning in this area - whether inside or outside RE itself. Conference in London on 26 November <http://www.reonline.org.uk/news/what-should-young-people-leave-school-knowing-about-religion-and-belief-free-event/>