

SACRE Primary Update

1 Networks

A primary network event focused on the contribution of RE to British values and Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural (SMSC) education was held on x at St Ursula's Junior school on 28th April 2015. The event was well attended with 26 attendees. Kate Christopher from RE Today led the session. We looked at how teachers promote religious understanding and looked at some suitable resources for this. The network event also looked at how teachers tackle pre-conceived or stereotypical ideas pupils may bring to lessons.

Future Network dates are set for

1st October 2015

26th January 2016

27th April 2016

2 Islam workshops

The SMSC/EMA (Ethnic Minority Achievement) advisor from Hsis attended workshops and an assembly for pupils run by Imran Kotwal of Living Islam, who offers pupil workshops and teacher training on understanding Islam, also in St Ursula's Infants and Junior schools. She reported back that the sessions were excellent and that pupils were highly engaged. The pitch was right and the tone created a real sense of "awe and wonder". Michelle will be commissioning a session from the presenter for teachers cross phase and this will include some tasters of his work with pupils, with a view to schools commissioning sessions. Two schools in cluster could share a one day session.

The training session will be put on through Hsis and will run in November (date TBC).

3 Other developments

Michelle Wain is also visiting a school in Northbury, noted for its excellent practice in understanding religious and cultural needs within a British context. We have recently had an increasing number of enquiries from schools regarding what constitutes appropriate provision with regards to issues such as changing for PE and fasting for example. This could then be used to disseminate some basic guidance and ideas to schools.

The national standards for RE have been put on the Hsis frontier site for schools.