

## **SACRE National Update in Religious Education Summer 2019**

### **New2RE**

Now in its sixth year, the New2RE programme is currently supporting over 70 new teachers as they begin their careers. New2RE is designed to support RE teachers in the first three years of their teaching careers and help them develop subject knowledge and confidence as a teacher of RE. The programme is tailored to the needs of each individual and is designed to complement and enhance the provision offered by participants' schools. The programme is free to the RE teachers, subject to a contribution from their school, and permission from the head teacher/principal to attend the residential course. There are 25 places available nationally.

How can Havering SACRE make the most of this initiative?

### **Annual NASACRE Conference and AGM**

This year's conference and AGM will be held in Manchester on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May. The theme is Cohesive Communities and Effective Partnerships; RE near and far (local, national, global).

Havering SACRE are not sending a delegate this year. Judging from last year, papers and materials from the conference will go onto the website. How will SACRE make the most of these?

### **Inter Faith Network**

The Inter Faith Network works to promote inter faith understanding and cooperation in the UK. It works locally, nationally and globally. Many schools in Havering are aware of Interfaith Week and this is led each year by the Inter Faith Network. Some SACREs have found it useful to contact the Inter Faith Network to help them appoint new members.

Are Havering SACRE in need of the Inter Faith Network's help?

### **Letter From the DfE**

Paul Smalley, chair of NASACRE has received a letter from Neil Lawson from the DfE's Curriculum Unit. Neil sets out the DfE's expectations with regards to schools' compliance with the duty to teach RE. The full letter can be seen here:

<http://nasacre.org.uk/file/nasacre/1-97-item-2.pdf>

What are the implications of this for Havering SACRE?

## **Havering Subject Leaders' Meeting**

This term's meeting was held at Ardleigh Green Junior School on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. Many thanks to RE Subject Leader Kathryn Everitt and the team at Ardleigh Green Junior School for hosting. Kathryn kindly shared pictures of an excellent Hinduism workshop which the children at her school take part in and photos of Year 4s visiting South West Essex Reform and Settlement Synagogue. This prompted discussion of a range of quality visits and visitors that schools had used and the teachers will hopefully be sharing this information with others online. Transport is a consideration for trips with good tube links, for example, sometimes helping teachers to decide upon venues.

Upcoming events in Havering were discussed including the Year of Beliefs event. Teachers will be sending competition entries to Romford Evangelical Free Church by July 31<sup>st</sup>. A teacher from a fairly large school will have 600 entries so it was decided that schools in this position may either choose to send in their top entries or indicate to SACRE which are the top in order to aid ease of judging.

Teachers had each brought some examples of work from the syllabus' systematic units and this was an opportunity to share and discuss good practice including: helping pupils to access religious texts, helping pupils make the most of a visit to a place of worship, discussing how to record work effectively and creatively, giving pupils the opportunity to ask and research answers to their own questions, how to look at religion globally such as studying Easter around the world.

The next meeting will focus on two units from the syllabus which are fairly hard to teach. Teachers will bring examples of how they have approached these units and the adviser will bring teaching ideas. It was decided to wait until the surveys had all been completed to finalise these units as some teachers have mentioned units in the feedback. Many teachers felt that unit 2.14 is incredibly hard and would like more input here.

## **Year of Beliefs**

The Queens Theatre will be unable to accommodate the exhibition around SACRE's planned dates John Lester has kindly contacted a number of locations about where an exhibition can be held. The main event is looking likely to be held at Frances Bardsley in the Autumn term. Schools will be able to visit this event to see the exhibition and visit stalls. The exhibition itself is then likely to move to libraries within the borough.

The RE and art competition has been advertised at Subject Leaders' meetings and via the portal. The deadline is 31<sup>st</sup> July and entries will be sent to Romford Evangelical Free Church. Many thanks to John Smailes for offering the church as a venue to send entries.

## **Agreed Syllabus**

The survey on the syllabus has been advertised in multiple places. Schools have replied and the results will be shared at the SACRE meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> May. At the RE Subject Leaders' meeting, the importance of answering this survey was impressed upon attendees.