

SACRE National Update: Summer 2020

New HMI Leading on RE

Dr Richard Kueh has recently been appointed as the new Ofsted Subject Lead for Religious Education. Richard is well-known to the RE world through his work on curriculum and was one of the key professionals involved in the formation of Norfolk's Agreed Syllabus.

#REchatUK

Teachers and other RE professionals are invited to participate in NATRE's #REChatUK twitter discussion which takes place on Mondays, between 8 and 9pm. Everyone is welcome! Although these chats usually happen on the first Monday of the month, they are currently running every Monday due to lockdown.

Open University course on religious literacy

Why Religion Matters: Religious Literacy, Culture and Diversity

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/why-religion-matters/> is a free, 4-week (12 hours) course presenting some of the latest university-level thinking on religious literacy in an accessible and interactive way. It should be easy for RE Teachers to apply these principles in their presentation of curriculum and topical discussions. The next start date for this course is 2nd November 2020. FutureLearn hosts courses provided by a number of universities and partners. It has other upcoming courses on religion, so teachers and RE professionals may like to keep their eye on this, alongside other e-learning platforms (such as EdX) which provide courses on religions and beliefs.

RE teachers' engagement with research

Culham St Gabriel's and the Graduate School of Education, University of Exeter are collaborating on a research study exploring RE teachers' engagement with research. Culham St Gabriel's Research for RE strategy and wider discourses surround CPD, have emphasised the valuable role that research can play in teachers' professional development and practice. However, deeper understanding is needed about the range of ways RE teachers engage with research, access it, mediate it, interpret it, and use it to inform practice within school contexts. Teachers of RE in primary, middle or secondary schools in England or Wales who would like to get involved in this project should contact Samantha Brown (research assistant) at the University of Exeter at s.brown6@exeter.ac.uk. Participation would involve a virtual interview, lasting approximately one hour.

Home Learning

NATRE have over 1500 resources available online. Members need simply login to access them. To help all schools during this difficult time, RE Today is working hard to support NATRE by producing resources that ALL teachers can use and share with pupils and parents in order to support with home learning. Free resources will be added to this page on an ongoing basis, so it is advisable for teachers to keep checking the site. Resources can be accessed here: <https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/free-resources-for-you-and-your-pupils/>

A list of useful resources for RE home learning from a range of providers can be found here: <https://www.natre.org.uk/uploads/Additional%20Documents/RE%20home%20learning%20resources%20v2.pdf>

A list of useful video clips to aid remote learning can be found here: <https://www.natre.org.uk/uploads/List%20of%20video%20clips%20of%20aid%20independent%20learning%20FINAL.pdf>

UK Council for Subject Associations launches directory to support educators

Subject associations are experiencing a surge in demand for practical resources to support home learning in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic. In response, the UK Council for Subject Associations (CfSA) has created a new online directory of organisations to guide parents and education professionals in need of specialist resources and support across all subjects. Many resources have been tailored for use by parents as standalone materials while retaining links to wider learning programmes. Some of these were made available via BBC Bitesize and other BBC channels on 20th April. Access the new Subject Association Directory here: <https://www.subjectassociations.org.uk/the-cfsa-directory/>

BBC Bitesize Daily

NATRE has received schedule information from the BBC via RE Today Adviser Lat Blaylock who has been commissioned to support them with the creation of RE lessons for Bitesize. The first Secondary RE lesson went out on the morning of 23rd April and is now available on iPlayer, via the following links:

11-12: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p089rj1x/bitesize-1112-year-olds-week-1-4-maths-english-and-religious-studies>

12-13: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p089sg9j/bitesize-1213-year-olds-week-1-4-maths-english-and-religious-studies>

13-14: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p089rfyz/bitesize-1314-year-olds-week-1-4-maths-english-and-religious-studies>

Further transmissions are **currently** scheduled as follows:

- Primary RE – Thursday 30th April
- Primary RE – Thursday 7th May
- Secondary RE – Thursday 7th May
- Secondary RE – Thursday 11th June
- Primary RE – Wednesday 1st July
- Secondary RE – Thursday 2nd July

These are of course subject to change. The BBC hope to keep us informed of any changes.

New RE films from BBC Bitesize

The BBC has released 22 new short films with accompanying information and activities for 11-14 year olds. This new, free BBC Bitesize RE content for Key Stage 3 is very timely as it is designed for pupils to use themselves, rather than needing a teacher to tell them what to do.

Access the BBC Bitesize films and resources here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zh3rkqt>

From the Inter Faith Network

The Inter Faith Network (IFN) has produced a resource for primary schools, aimed at teachers in upper Key Stage 2, which explores inter faith activity in the UK. The resource has a teacher introduction and four units that can be used to explore inter faith activity, looking at issues such as dialogue, social action and sport. Each unit has a series of hyperlinks that link teachers and pupils to actual projects across England with a series of possible tasks to assist learning. It can be found at: <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/learning-about-inter-faith-activity-a-primary-resource>.

The IFN has been collating and publishing the ways that faith communities and inter faith bodies are responding to the Corona virus/Covid-19 crisis. The link can be found at: <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/news/faith-communities-and-coronavirus>. This is being updated on a weekly basis as more responses come in.

How GCSE, AS and A Level will be awarded this year

Ofqual have published details of how GCSE, AS and A levels will be awarded this summer.

You can find the details and the relevant documents here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/how-gcses-as-a-levels-will-be-awarded-in-summer-2020>

Developments in Wales

Following the Welsh Minister for Education's announcement last January of her intentions to re-name RE Religion, Values and Ethics (RVE) as well as to remove the parental right of withdrawal from the subject, Welsh Government is now consulting on proposal to make legislative changes for religion, values and ethics in the Curriculum for Wales Framework.

The relevant document and response forms can be found here:

<https://gov.wales/legislative-proposals-religion-values-and-ethics>.

The proposals involve making significant changes to the scope of RVE, arrangements for SACREs and Agreed Syllabus Conferences (ASCs) as well as to the expectations placed upon different types of schools.

