

REFocus Issue 8 Autumn 2020

Welcome to issue 8 of REFocus. Oxfordshire SACRE hopes that all teachers are coping with the new challenges you are having to face and recognises the excellent work you are doing not simply to keep children in school, but to give them the best education.

The review and development of the new agreed syllabus 2022-27

I hope you have received the news that we have agreed to postpone the development of the new agreed syllabus by another year. SACRE and Oxfordshire CC agreed that teachers and leaders of schools have had, and continue to have, too much to deal with at the moment. This means that the current agreed syllabus will run until July 2022 and the new one will start in September 2022, with a year to adapt for full implementation in Sept 2023. This syllabus will run from 2022-27.

The Oxfordshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education 2015 - 2020



Look out for the arrival of a survey monkey consultation for you to tell us your thoughts on the current agreed syllabus and what you would like to see as improvements. We will be setting up a core group of teachers to help write the syllabus, working with our SACRE adviser, Bill Moore, and also opening up through Zoom or other online media to wider groups of teachers to comment and add their views. This is a critical time for RE (or is it Religion and Worldviews, in line with the recommendations of the [CoRE report 2018](#) ?) and we will be looking at how the new syllabus can build on the current one whilst taking account of recent developments such as the ‘Knowledge-rich’ curriculum and Ofsted expectations.

The main work involving teachers will be done over the rest of this academic year, with final writing in Autumn 2021. Most of this will be done on-line. Thank you to those colleagues who have already offered to support this invaluable piece of work.

Work this term will include the Survey Monkey Questionnaire to all schools to be completed by **Friday 18th Dec.** Click [here](#) to access.



Holocaust Memorial Day 27th January 2021

‘Be the light in the darkness’

The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day 2021 is one that resonates with what has been going on recently around the world. Explore with your pupils what the ‘Darkness’ might be, extending their understanding to include oppression, genocide and the Holocaust in an age-appropriate way, Primary and Secondary. Explore what we mean by ‘being the Light’ and how this can be lived out in our society and around the world or contextualise it in history. Use art, poetry, creative writing, philosophy, ethics, RE and music to explore deep ideas and express profound responses. Promote and recognise this work around the whole school community and let us know so we can include it in our next REFocus. It does not need to be a huge event; embedding it into the life of the school is much more effective. Start simply; simply start!



For ideas and information see the web page <https://www.hmd.org.uk/what-is-holocaust-memorial-day/this-years-theme/> and for specific support and ideas for schools, Primary, Secondary and Special, see <https://www.hmd.org.uk/take-part-in-holocaust-memorial-day/schools/>

For schools that wish to access more detailed training and resources, the Holocaust Education Trust is excellent. A programme for 2020-21 can be accessed at:

https://www.het.org.uk/images/Ed_Programme/Educational_Programme_2020-21.pdf



Developing RE: resources and CPD

The most important investment a school can make for its pupils is in the professional development of its staff.

Strictly @ Home 2021

The annual NATRE teachers' conference this year will be held online over 2 days on Sat 30th and Sun 31st Jan. Details and joining can be accessed [here](#).



NATRE has also produced some useful anti-racist materials for RE, which can be accessed [here](#).

RE Today has launched a brand new website the [REtoday Magazine Library](#), which is an archive of articles from the popular REToday magazine.

For a reasonable subscription, you can now access over 1000 articles on this searchable, indexed website, making it easier for you and your colleagues to find inspiring, practical RE lesson ideas and more.

REQM



is a highly prized validation of quality RE in a school and ranges from Bronze – Silver – Gold. For more information and how to apply, <https://www.reqm.org/reqm-awards/how-to-apply/> SACRE is keen to promote REQM as a means to help improve RE not just in those schools that apply but also through them to support other schools across the county. If you are interested, please do apply and if possible contact Bill Moore (bjvmoore@aol.com) so that SACRE can celebrate and share your achievement.

Farmington Fellowships

The application for Farmington Fellowships has opened. These are absolutely brilliant CPD opportunities for RE teachers. (I sit here typing this totally regretting that I didn't apply whereas my sister did – not jealous at all!!) For more information and how to apply, go to:

<http://www.farmington.ac.uk/index.php/farmington-scholarships/> (closing date 31/1/21)



Humanists UK

School speakers and support from Humanists UK are available for primary and secondary schools, including the resource 'Understanding Humanism'. They are offering online 'visits' whilst the Covid-19 pandemic prevails. All this is provided for free. This will help to support the agreed syllabus and also recognise the importance of non-religious worldviews. Please click [here](#) to access the information. Their website offers a range of resources and information as well.

RE:Online offers excellent resources, CPD and courses for teachers at all stages in their careers. If you have not already done so, it is well worth visiting <https://www.reonline.org.uk/> for knowledge, leadership and CPD.

In particular, they offer specific tutored courses (<https://www.teachre.co.uk/tutored-modules/>)

And for those of you who want to expand your leadership skills beyond one school, supporting other schools in a network or a MAT, see their leadership programme <https://www.reonline.org.uk/leading-re/equipping-and-building-a-community-of-leaders-for-change/>



And Finally

If you have any school RE news, announcements, questions or suggestions for the next REFocus (Feb 2021) please email me and I will include what I can.

Wishing you all the very best for the rest of this term and the Christmas Holiday, on behalf of all of SACRE,



Bill Moore

(Adviser to SACRE)

bjvmoore@aol.com

Twitter @bjvmoore

Have you joined the OxonBucksRE local Facebook group? If not, you can do so by clicking [here](#).



Don't forget to complete the brief survey on the review of the agreed syllabus. It only takes about 20 mins at most and SACRE is really keen to reflect your views in the development of the new syllabus. You can access it [here](#). Deadline Fri 18th Dec