

Diocese of Lincoln Religious Education Report to Lincolnshire SACRE



A number of initiatives and events relating to religious education have taken place since the last report:

R.E. Cluster Meetings

By the end of autumn term, eight cluster meetings for R.E. teachers had taken place around the Diocese. A good mix of new and experienced teachers came together to discuss a variety of pertinent issues relating to the subject. It was particularly interesting to hear how the R.E. courses have made a positive impact on schools. The meetings are very useful when teachers are willing to share good ideas and resources. The headteacher of Blyton cum Laughton Church of England Primary School, Lynne Saint shared her school's plans for Advent and this was well received by others. The next series of cluster meetings are currently being planned and will run in the summer term.

R.E. course

On 23rd January 2012, Martyn Payne from Barnabas in Schools led a course at the Old Palace on R.E. and Olympic Values entitled 'Who comes first?' He provided delegates with a range of practical approaches for promoting these values in RE. Reflective story telling, drama and discussion were just some of the techniques he used. The delegates also received materials to use with children in class. Evaluations showed that the course was highly valued by all delegates.

In addition to the course, schools have been signposted to Barnabas in Schools' website as they have designed a new creative arts-based R.E. day, two-hour INSET package and a teaching resource book related to the Olympics. The 'More than Gold' website is another useful resource for schools looking to develop the Olympics theme with their church community. Schools have been made aware of this in 'R.E. News'.

Forthcoming R.E. training

- 5 March & 3 May Regional Governor Training (RE and Collective Worship) in Boston and Lincoln respectively.
- Mon 12 March 2012 Lincolnshire SACRE conference – 'Opening the door – Raising awareness of faiths and cultures'
- Mon 19 March 2012 Epworth Old Rectory – A visit for teachers
- 24/25 April & 29 June Godly Play – 3 day accreditation course. Details at www.godlyplay.org.uk
- Tues 1 May 2012 'Body and Soul' – Active learning for relationship education with 9 – 11s led by Lat Blaylock
- Mon 2 July 2012 'Help! I'm a RE coordinator' led by Lat Blaylock

Members of SACRE are very welcome to attend these courses. To reserve a place, please e-mail sandy.willmott@lincoln.anglican.org

Leading R.E. teachers

Located across the Diocese are a number of Leading R.E. teachers who are keen and willing to support schools with religious education. The initiative was launched in the summer term of 2011 with the contact database and supporting materials for schools being made available on the Diocesan and SACRE websites. Although many schools have not yet made use of the service, the general feedback is that they find it reassuring that they know where to turn when they need help. Schools are requested to complete and return an evaluation form when they have received support. On 27 February, the leading R.E. teachers will meet to review the initiative.

Celebrating R.E.

This time last year, many schools across the Diocese participated in the national event 'Celebrating RE'. It was great to see the exciting and creative work being done in our schools. In 2012, there are plans to open an on line gallery of R.E. work on the Diocesan website. Subject to approval, this gallery could be part of the SACRE website as well. Schools have been asked to e-mail photographs of R.E. work they would like to share with other schools.

Locally Agreed Syllabus

Over the past few months, Wendy Harrison has been heavily engaged in coordinating the review of the Lincolnshire Agreed Syllabus for R.E. I have enjoyed being a member of the working party. On behalf of the Diocese, I would like to thank Wendy for the tremendous work she has done on what I'm sure will be a syllabus highly valued by all schools. When completed, the diocese will offer any support SACRE requires to embed the new syllabus effectively into schools.

Statement of Entitlement

This document attached produced by the National Society is intended to help schools and academies ensure the teaching and learning of R.E. is treated with the importance and delivered with the excellence it deserves. It includes aims, outcomes, teaching and learning about Christianity and other faiths and world views, curriculum balance, curriculum time, staff and outcomes for pupils. These areas raise important issues for policy making for schools. They can be used with parents and staff to promote understanding of the value of R.E. as well as to support curriculum development and syllabus writing where appropriate. Although this document is specifically aimed at church schools, SACRE may like to have a copy on their website.

R.E. News

In January, the termly newsletter, 'R.E. News' was distributed to all schools, Bishop's Visitors and SACRE members. This publication aims to keep schools up to date with events and initiatives that are currently pertinent in the R.E. arena.

Report by Paul Thompson
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