



Lincoln Diocesan Report for Religious Education

RE News

The sixth edition of RE News has recently been produced for all schools and a copy has been made available for SACRE. This termly newsletter aims to keep schools up to date with current RE events and initiatives. This report also outlines the number of initiatives and events relating to religious education have taken place since the last SACRE meeting.

R.E. Cluster Meetings

R.E. Cluster meetings are informal meetings for primary and secondary teachers and teaching assistants with an interest or responsibility for teaching R.E. in school. The meetings provide valuable opportunities for colleagues to share ideas, consider new resources and keep up to date with new initiatives. Nine regional R.E. meetings have taken place around the Diocese this term.

26th April 2012 4.00pm	Stickney Church of England Primary School Main Road, Stickney, Boston PE22 8AX
30th April 2012 4.00pm	Weston Hills Church of England Primary School Learning Lane, Weston Hills, Spalding PE12 6DL
8th May 2012 4.00pm	Cleethorpes St Peter's Church of England Primary School St Peter's Avenue, Cleethorpes DN35 8LW
10th May 2012 4.00pm	Allington with Sedgebrook Church of England Primary School Marston Lane, Allington, Grantham NG32 2DY
15th May 2012 4.00pm	Baston Church of England Primary School 103a Main Street, Baston, Peterborough PE6 9PB
21st May 2012 4.00pm	Branston Church of England Infant School Beech Road, Branston, Lincoln LN4 1PR
22nd May 2012 4.00pm	Westwoodside Church of England Primary School Nethergate, Westwoodside, Doncaster DN9 2DX
24th May 2012 4.00pm	Dunholme St Chad's Church of England Primary Ryland Road, Dunholme, Lincoln LN2 3NE
28th May 2012 4.00pm	Withern St Margaret's Church of England School Main Road, Withern, Alford LN13 0NB

The SACRE conference

On 12 March, I was pleased to support SACRE with their conference at the Petwood Hotel in Woodhall Spa. Over 70 RE teachers from around the county attended the day which began with a very thought provoking key note speech by Professor Denise Cush of Bath Spa University. She provided valuable insights into how religious education has developed over the decades and how important it is to face the challenges within education and society with religious education at the forefront. The teachers then had opportunities to explore the main world religions through a range of workshops. A Q&A session with a panel of religious education advisers and faith leaders provided teachers with opportunities to ask subject specific questions before the close of day.

Regional governing training in Religious Education and Collective Worship

Last term, David Clements and I led two regional governor training sessions related to RE and collective worship. These took place in Boston and Lincoln. The training highlighted the importance of these two key aspects in school life and provided governors with strategies on how they can support their school to develop these areas through monitoring and evaluation.

Epworth Old Rectory

On 19th March, I arranged for a group of teachers to visit Epworth Old Rectory to see how this fascinating site can develop their children's knowledge about the Wesley family. The curator and volunteers are able to plan a wide range of first hand, practical and cross-curricular learning experiences tailored to the curriculum should schools wish to visit. Teachers from Binbrook Joint CE / Methodist Primary School in Lincolnshire found this to be a valuable visit.

Godly Play

A group of teachers and volunteers began a 3 day accredited course on Godly Play in April. This training led by Dr Rebecca Nye enables teachers to explore Bible stories in R.E using a variety of Godly Play scripts and resources. They will complete the course at the end of June. Feedback from participants so far is very positive.

Forthcoming R.E. courses

The following courses and events have been planned so far over the coming months:

- Mon 2 July 2012 'Help! I'm a RE coordinator' led by Lat Blaylock (Editor of RE Today) at Bishop Grosseteste University College, Lincoln
- 13 July 2012 New Directions for Secondary Church School RE at Central Hall, Westminster, London (organised by National Society)
- 29/30 September 2012 'From here to outstanding - Pushing the Boundaries for RE'. A weekend at Wokefield Park Conference Centre, Reading.
- Wed 3 October 2012 'Christianity across the World' led by Lizzie McWhirter (Coventry Diocese RE Adviser) at the Old Palace, Lincoln

In the summer edition of 'RE News', I have promoted the updated RE CPD handbook <http://re-handbook.org.uk> website for online professional development. It includes very useful advice on approaches to teaching, learning and assessment in RE.

Leading RE teachers

A meeting for Leading RE Teachers to review the initiative was arranged on 27 February. Although not all Leading RE teachers have been deployed yet, it would seem that the service is valued and teachers are reassured to know support is available upon request. Some Leading RE teachers have been busy supporting colleagues in a range of settings last term. A Lincoln special school invited James Barker (Bishop King CE Primary School) to provide advice on the subject coordinator file and guide them on the future direction of RE in the school. The school reported ***'James is extremely easy to work with and I have found his advice and support wonderful.'***

Students from Bishop Grosseteste University College visited leading teachers and teaching assistants at Manor Leas Infant School to observe Godly Play in RE and glean good practice in planning and monitoring the subject. The college tutor reported ***'I was particularly grateful that the school was prepared for the whole group to visit at one time. I felt this was very worthwhile.'*** Next term, Leading RE teacher, Fiona Shaw, has been invited by a newly appointed headteacher to provide staff training in her school on developing a vision with Christian values.

The database and supporting materials for this initiative can be found on the Diocesan or SACRE websites. I will continue to closely monitor this initiative to ensure high quality support is maintained.

Seminar at Bishop Grosseteste University College

In addition to the 3rd year students from Bishop Grosseteste University College observing Godly Play at Manor Leas Infant School, I led a seminar on church school education for students. We explored what makes church schools distinctive with an emphasis on religious education.

National Initiatives

To keep abreast of national initiatives in RE, I attend the AREIAC (Association of RE Advisers and Consultants) meetings in Ely on a termly basis. The main issues for consideration are described below:

Disappearance of RE material from government websites

Many people have expressed concern over the last couple of months at the removal without notice of many valued resources which support work in RE from government websites such as that of QCDA. The DfE has now responded to the Religious Education Council's request for information on this; the materials are all still available on the National Archive website.

Schools minister asks RE community for new subject framework

The RE Council issued a media release on Friday 30th March outlining a request from Nick Gibb, Minister of State for Schools, for the RE Council to consider excellent practice in RE teaching and present its findings in a report. In spite of various setbacks for RE over the past year, this is a positive indication that government minister do regard the subject as an important part of the English education system.

Introducing the Religious Education quality mark

The RE Quality Mark (REQM) is an accreditation system for recognising good practice in religious education. Its principal focus is enhanced pedagogy and it is designed to encourage whole school improvement. The REQM will be available to all community schools and, in consultation with the National Society, there will be additional requirements for Church of England schools to enable them to achieve it. Schools will apply for the REQM through a designated website and trained assessors will visit the school. The REQM will be awarded at one of three levels - gold, silver or bronze. It is hoped that some schools in our Diocese will be involved in pilot project during the academic year of 2012-13.

Resources

I have promoted a number of new resources for RE and collective worship in 'RE News' and at the cluster meetings. New resources include

- Worship workshop <http://www.worshipworkshop.org.uk> – interactive website for planning collective worship
- Prayer Spaces in schools www.prayerspacesinschools.com – new ideas for the Olympics
- Free Bible Story images in Powerpoint, Keynote, PDF and JPEG www.freebibleimages.org
- Church school resources website (RE, collective worship etc www.churchschoolseast.org.uk)
- Barnabas in Schools - www.barnabasinschools.org.uk (theme days, articles, resources)

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