



**Doncaster**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

**DONCASTER  
STANDING ADVISORY  
COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION  
(SACRE)**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2013 - 2014**

[www.doncaster.gov.uk](http://www.doncaster.gov.uk)

**To:**

**All SACRE Members  
Department for Education  
NASACRE  
All LA community and VA schools**

## **LETTER FROM THE CHAIR OF SACRE**

It is with great pleasure that I introduce the Annual Report of Doncaster's Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE).

SACRE has continued to develop the Agreed Syllabus for the use of all our educational establishments here in the Borough with a view to enriching the RE Syllabus for the benefit of our many communities. The Committee would like to thank our RE Adviser who worked extremely hard to guide us in the production of a vibrant and user-friendly syllabus with a set of Guidance Material that will be of enormous value to teachers. We particularly commend the work of all the officers who serve the Committee to make these resources available online, reflecting the changes to how teachers and students operate in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Our Committee has worked to expand our membership and has taken particular steps to include Academy representation at our meetings which take place each term. The changes in the educational architecture over the past few years have been challenging to fit in to our committee structure created in the 1940s, but I believe our developing membership is sufficiently flexible to face the future.

There will be quite significant challenges for Doncaster SACRE in the coming year. The changes in the curriculum nationally may have an impact on the importance of RE as a topic taught in the Borough's schools, and the Committee will continue to monitor this trend. Decision makers at all levels in the educational establishment need to reflect that promoting an understanding of different faiths through education has its own intrinsic value. This seems ever more important given the high profile events around the world where more extreme iterations of faith crowd out the mainstream versions of faith in the public eye.

My thanks go to all of SACRE's members for their dedication and diligence and to the team who support our work. I look forward to the busy year ahead.

Kevin Rodgers  
Chair of SACRE

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### **Context**

Doncaster is a small Local Authority (LA) with 17 secondary schools, and 99 primary schools and 5 special schools. All of the secondary schools within the Doncaster Local Authority have become academies, as have a smaller proportion of primary schools. The SACRE aims to respond to the challenges and opportunities that the expansion of the academies programme presents.

Information taken from the 2011 Census showed that 65.9% of people identified themselves as being Christian within the Doncaster Local Authority. The next largest faith group identified was Muslim at 1.7%. The other faith groups were identified as Sikh at 0.4%, Hindu at 0.3%, Buddhist at 0.2%, and people following other religions 0.3%. Doncaster figures mirror the national trend since 2001 of an increase in the number of people specifying that they hold no religious belief, a decrease in the number of people who profess to follow Christianity, and an increase in the numbers of people following other religions.

The 2013 Agreed Syllabus is an inclusive syllabus, recognising that whilst many pupils come from religious backgrounds, others may have no attachment to religious beliefs and practices. The syllabus provides a good range of opportunities for students to study Christianity, other faith traditions, and secular philosophies such as humanism. In this way, the religious education curriculum is broad and balanced, and all pupils have an opportunity to share their own beliefs, viewpoints and ideas.

The 2013 Agreed Syllabus is located on the SACRE section of the Doncaster Council website. Go to [www.doncaster.gov.uk/las](http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/las) . All academies in Doncaster have been actively encouraged to use it. An important focus for this year has been to provide training for all schools on the new syllabus, which has been directed both at teachers and governors.

## **1. Standards and quality of RE provision**

### **a. Compliance and time allocation for RE**

Considering the demands of the Local Agreed Syllabus, the Agreed Syllabus Conference strongly recommends that schools dedicate a minimum of 5% curriculum time for the teaching of clearly identifiable RE.

The Local Authority received two communications from the public this year raising concerns about compliance and time allocation for RE in a local secondary academy. Having considered the current DfE guidance on RE and academies, the decision was made to refer the matter to the SACRE. After discussion, it was agreed that the LA would respond to these public concerns by providing appropriate advice i.e. a comprehensive outline of the DfE guidance on RE and Collective Worship in Academies and Free Schools, and by indicating the procedure for raising concerns about schools to be found on the GOV UK website. This procedure advises talking to a school or academy first about any concerns, and to follow their complaints procedure where appropriate, before considering taking a complaint further.

As a matter of courtesy and support, the SACRE requested that the local authority contact the named academy to inform them of this public concern, and to offer advice or assistance if required.

There have been no formal complaints about RE in community schools.

### **b. Standards and achievement**

The attainment targets (as outlined in the 8-level scale) in the agreed syllabus provide a standards framework for teachers to use in their planning and target setting. A sample of Ofsted reports have been monitored by SACRE but have provided no examples of RE being referred to in terms of standards attained in Key Stages 1-3.

Standards in primary schools and at Key Stage 3:

There is no LA strategy for collecting evidence on standards in primary schools or at Key Stage 3. Standards in schools for all subjects, including RE, are viewed by the LA as a matter for the leadership team in a school to monitor and to address.

### **c. Public examination entries in RE 2014**

The national picture:

The Religious Education Council (REC) has produced a summary of the key outcomes of the 2014 GCSE results in England and Wales for Religious Education. It concluded that urgent action was needed to halt GCSE decline.

The key outcomes the Religious Education Council showed are as follows:

RS GCSE entries in 2014 - combined short and full course - showed a decrease of 8% from 2013 ( a 7% increase in GCSE Full Course entries contrasted with a 30% decrease in GCSE Short Course entries).

When RS GCSE entries in England over the past three years are compared to those in Wales (where the EBacc and the average point score at GCSE have not been adopted as school performance measures), it appears that government education policy in

England has had an adverse effect on RE GCSE entries in England, compared to Wales (where short course GCSE RS entries have remained stable).

Overall, compared to 2012, nearly 70,000 fewer 16 year olds in England will have completed Key Stage 4 in 2014 having not gained a qualification in Religious Studies (a drop of 15%). This echoes research by the National Association of Teachers of RE (published in November 2013) that found a third of community schools and over a third of academies without a religious character are still failing to meet their legal or contractual agreements to provide religious education for this key age group.

For more details go to the Religious Education Council website:

<http://religioueducationcouncil.org.uk/educators/news/2014-08-21/urgent-action-needed-to-curb-gcse-decline>

#### **Doncaster GCSE entries:**

There is no information available this year on Doncaster GCSE Short Course entries. Full course entries locally are up by 38% on 2012, compared to 19% nationally (GCSE RS full course entries in England have increased from 216,182 in 2012 to 258,067 in 2014). Using RAISEonline, entry as a percentage of cohort for full course GCSE is 26.5% compared to a national average of 42.7%. This compares to 21.2% and 36.7% in 2013 and 18.8% and 34.5% in 2012 for the same measures respectively.

#### **Doncaster AS and A Level entries:**

Entries for the AS course only dropped slightly. The number of entries for the A Level course in the Doncaster local authority is down by 37% to 43.

#### **e. Quality of teaching**

No issues have been reported to SACRE about the quality of RE teaching and learning this year.

#### **f. Quality of leadership and management**

No issues have been reported to SACRE about the quality of RE leadership and management this year.

### **g. Teacher recruitment and retention, level of specialist provision**

SACRE does not have current information on teacher recruitment, retention, and level of specialist provision in religious education.

### **h. Resources: level of budgeting and ICT access for RE**

SACRE has no information this year.

## **2. Managing the SACRE and partnership with the LA and other key stakeholders**

### **a. SACRE meetings** Appendix 1

The full SACRE has met on three occasions at The Mary Woollett Centre in Doncaster.

Dates: 26 November 2013

2 April 2014

25 June 2014

All these meetings have been quorate, which is an improvement on last year.

### **b. Membership and training**

#### **Membership** Appendix 4

SACRE strives for a broad membership base in line with legal requirements. Efforts have continued to be made by the Clerk to SACRE to widen the membership base on Committees A and B, and fill vacancies where they exist on the other Committees.

Not every faith group and local organisation approached about representation on SACRE has responded. However, two additional members have been appointed to Committee A, representing the Doncaster Society of Friends and the Doncaster Unitarian and Free Christian Church. Approaches to the Sikh community for representation on Committee A are continuing. A new member has been appointed to Committee B. The difficulties of recruiting new members to Committee C have been discussed – the traditional route of approaching teacher unions to nominate representatives has not proved effective. One idea raised was for the Local Authority to approach Doncaster schools directly for expressions of interest from individual teachers.

There has been an on-going discussion about boosting attendance at SACRE meetings, particularly attendance on Committee C. The merits of different timings for SACRE meetings have been discussed.

The decision was made this year for SACRE meetings correspondence to display a full list of member names/allegiances by Committee to familiarise members with the SACRE structure and representation.

#### **Training**

Induction: new members to SACRE are supported by materials produced by NASACRE: “So you’re joining your local SACRE” - a handbook for SACRE members. Two local publications, the Doncaster SACRE Code of Conduct and the Doncaster SACRE

Constitution, provide new members with appropriate advice about the context of their new role.

The SACRE consultant and a senior officer from the LA have been in attendance at every meeting this year to update members on national and local developments in RE and the wider curriculum as applicable.

In addition, SACRE members have received training from a senior LA officer on the Doncaster 2013 Religious Studies examination results.

### **c. SACRE development**

#### **SACRE Self-Evaluation and Development Action Plan**

The 2011-12 Development Plan has been reviewed. The key priority has been successfully achieved i.e. the review of the Agreed Syllabus and Guidance Material. Of the other three development areas of the plan, only one has proved to be unrealistic given capacity constraints i.e. SACRE does not have the resources to routinely monitor provision and standards in RE and collective worship in schools – this needs to rely on the vigilance of School Leadership teams. However, the Local Authority does support the monitoring of provision for SMSCD (spiritual, moral, social and cultural development) through a sampling of Ofsted reports.

The development areas related to boosting the membership and attendance of SACRE, and providing schools with regular advice and guidance to assist them in delivering quality religious education and collective worship, are referred to in other parts of this report.

The attempt to use the SACRE Toolkit from NASACRE (we looked only at Section 1) as an aid to SACRE Self-evaluation proved unsuccessful. The document is too detailed, and unsuited to the context in which Doncaster SACRE currently operates. However, the experience raised a lot of questions about the potential of SACRE representatives for being involved in supporting good RE in schools, and for the possible need for SACRE to refine its role in line with the Voluntary sector.

There was general agreement that a simplified evaluation format should become an integral part of every SACRE meeting. The NASACRE publication “20+ Ideas for SACREs” has been welcomed as a useful reference document in this process.

#### **Advice and support for schools Appendix 2**

The SACRE area of the Doncaster Council website is being developed to support teachers, and will be updated with items such as the SACRE Annual Report. A new SACRE website administrator has been appointed.

The SACRE e-newsletter on RE and Collective Worship has continued to successfully support schools this year. The newsletter keeps school leaders, governors and RE teachers regularly informed about national and local developments which support the provision of quality RE and collective worship, including local faith contacts, new resources, practical teaching ideas, and CPD training opportunities. An archive of newsletters is featured on the SACRE section of the Doncaster Council website.

Information and support related to the statutory requirement for all schools to provide religious education has been sent to schools. For example, following the report into the supply and support for RE teachers by the All Party Parliamentary Group on RE, Doncaster primary and secondary schools have been alerted to the guidance briefing papers on religious education produced for governing bodies by the Religious Education Council. The papers outline schools' responsibilities with regards to RE, give an overview of the problems identified by the report, and suggest actions governors might undertake to bring about improvement in their schools and support best practice in RE.

In addition clarification has been provided for governors and school leaders about the concern that some secondary schools may be misunderstanding the requirement for the delivery of religious education in their schools.

Teachers concerned that the curriculum provision for RE in their schools is not meeting the statutory requirement have also been advised of the complaints protocol produced by the National Association of Teachers of RE entitled "Assuring provision for RE in maintained schools in England".

In the aftermath of the violent incident at Woolwich in May 2013 SACRE discussed the need for producing specific follow-up guidance to support schools in responding to difficult questions and concerns that might arise from this. It was decided that, because the 2013 RE Guidance Material already contained advice for schools on this matter, the LA would reply to each school request for support individually.

SACRE does not currently have an ongoing relationship with local providers of initial teacher education and CPD.

#### **d. Financial support**

The Local Authority provides funding for SACRE from the Children and Young People's Services' budget:

- a dedicated Clerk to support the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
- dedicated support and advice from the SACRE consultant
- essential administration costs

#### **e. Information and advice**

##### **Advice for SACRE from the LA:**

The LA has systems in place for monitoring Ofsted reports, and provides the SACRE with a summary of the outcomes of Ofsted inspections.

The Ofsted Framework of Sept 2012 means that reports provide little in the way of information about compliance and quality of provision for religious education and collective worship. However the provision for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSCD) remains an important component in judging the overall effectiveness of a school. Therefore Ofsted reports still have some value as a source of relevant information for the SACRE about SMSCD provision in schools, even if identifying this information can be quite time consuming (it can occur at any part of the report).

According to the data provided by the LA, 45 schools in total were inspected by Ofsted under section 5 this year: 34 primary schools, 9 secondary schools, no special schools and 2 pupil referral units (PRU). Under the 2012 inspection framework, the overall



effectiveness of a school cannot be judged to be good or outstanding unless the provision for spiritual, moral, social or cultural development is deemed to be at least good. On that basis, this year the provision for SMSCD has been judged at least good in 11 primary schools, 2 secondary academies, and 1 PRU.

However, past experience of monitoring Ofsted reports has shown that in many instances, Doncaster schools have received better judgements for the provision of SMSCD than they have for the judgement on overall school effectiveness. The SACRE Consultant therefore sampled 10 inspection reports where the overall effectiveness of a school was judged to be less than good to see if the narrative comments about SMSCD was also less than good. In all cases where there was a comment, the provision and quality of SMSCD was commented upon favourably by Ofsted, and therefore did not reflect the overall judgement for those sample schools. This is very reassuring, given the continuing importance that Ofsted places on the provision of SMSCD in schools.

Focusing on the sample schools and academies judged to be inadequate by Ofsted, here are some of the comments about SMSCD found in their Ofsted reports:

*“The school successfully promotes pupils’ SMSC development. Pupils’ learning and enjoyment of school is enriched well by visits to places of interest, social and sporting events and other community activities”.*

*“Pupils are exposed to a wide range of experiences through an enriched curriculum that endeavours to develop the pupils’ SMSC development”.*

*“The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of the students is promoted across the school. The spiritual development of the students is a strength. Students appreciate the wide range of extra-curricular activities on offer”.*

*“The school provides a broad range of extra-curricular activities. They are enjoyed by many students and promote their personal development and their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development”.*

*From this sample evidence, therefore, it is clear that where a school is judged by Ofsted reports to be less than good overall, this is often not a judgement that can also be applied to that schools’ provision for SMSCD.*

### **Information and advice for the SACRE from schools**

The SACRE has had discussions on how to help schools and teachers develop good RE practice by strengthening the link between schools, the Local Authority and local faith groups. It was suggested that the SACRE consultant compile a Local Faith Contacts Directory for the use of schools, starting with the co-ordination of information from schools themselves about their faith contact links. An appeal for this information was made through the SACRE e-newsletters, but this has not yielded any response to date.

SACRE has not requested any formal information and advice from schools this year.

### **Professional advice available to SACRE**

The LA employs a part-time SACRE consultant to provide advisory support for the SACRE about national and local developments in religious education and collective worship. The SACRE consultant represents the Doncaster SACRE at professional

association meetings, and provides SACRE members with government, curriculum, and professional association updates. Newsletters are routinely circulated for the information of SACRE from NASACRE (SACRE News). Copies of the RE and Collective Worship SACRE e-newsletters are distributed for the information of members.

### **Issues referred to the LA by the SACRE**

The SACRE has requested that schools are kept informed (through the various e-newsletters) of issues/advice discussed at SACRE meetings which are of direct relevance to teachers, head teachers and school governors in meeting their statutory obligations. Refer to the Advice and Support for Schools section of this report.

### **f. Partnerships with other key stakeholders**

Doncaster SACRE is committed to promoting and supporting high quality religious education and collective worship in all Doncaster schools. To this end, it aims to develop a positive working relationship with academies and encourage teachers in all Doncaster schools to collaborate and work in partnership.

Doncaster SACRE welcomes the use of the 2013 Agreed Syllabus by academies. The reviewed syllabus places renewed emphasis on the importance of religious education in a school's planning for the provision of opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and makes clear links with the Subsidiary Guidance issued to Ofsted inspectors in January 2012.

Academies are included on the mailing list for the SACRE e newsletter which is sent to all schools each term. This provides an update on developments in, and resources for, religious education and collective worship.

In addition SACRE continues to have established links with the wider RE community such as NASACRE (the National Association of SACREs), AREIAC and RE Today services. The SACRE consultant is a member of AREIAC (the Association of RE advisers, inspectors and consultants). This year the SACRE consultant represented Doncaster SACRE at the NASACRE AGM on the 22 May 2014: "Rising to the Challenge".

This year the Local Authority has actively promoted the wonderful professional development opportunity provided for RE teachers through the Farmington Fellowship initiative. As a result, one teacher in a local secondary academy has been awarded a Fellowship in the forthcoming academic year 2014-15. This is being supported by a liaison tutor at York St John's University. This teacher plans to work with a group of mixed ability students as her co-researchers. They are discovering faith stories from around the world and reinterpreting them for a modern day, youth audience. They plan to create a compilation book of short stories with their own adaptations and illustrations. The stories are chosen by the students to reflect the needs of youngsters growing up in today's society, almost like a 'self-help book'.

## **3. The effectiveness of the local agreed syllabus**

### **a. Review of the Agreed Syllabus**

Cycle of Agreed Syllabus implementation:

- 2013:

- Launch of the new Agreed Syllabus
- 2013-16:  
Training support for teachers in the new Local Agreed Syllabus (introduce, embed, consolidate) and the monitoring of its delivery in schools (see 3d)

## **b. Using the non-statutory national framework**

The non- statutory National Framework for Religious Education (NFRE) published in 2004 has continued to be a major source of guidance for the revised 2013 Doncaster Agreed Syllabus. The revised syllabus draws extensively on the materials from the National Framework (for example, the levels of the Framework are incorporated into the Agreed Syllabus). This is to enable schools to draw on materials which might be produced nationally i.e. schemes of work, exemplification materials and published materials.

In addition the 2013 syllabus takes account of more recent national advice: the illustrative RE programmes of study for secondary education (2007); QCA RE and pupils with learning difficulties (2009); RE in English schools: Non-statutory guidance 2010 (DCSF); Subsidiary Guidance, Ofsted Framework (2012); and the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework 2012.

## **c. Developing the revised Agreed Syllabus**

The RE Review Report 2013 has now been published by the Religious Education Council. It has produced a new non-statutory curriculum framework for RE in England which is in line with developments in the current National Curriculum review. Future developments of the agreed syllabus will take account of this new framework, and in the meantime Doncaster SACRE will monitor closely how other LAs use this document.

## **d. Consultation/launch/implementation of the Agreed Syllabus**

Having consulted on and launched the revised 2013 Agreed Syllabus, Doncaster Local Authority has provided a structure for embedding and consolidating the agreed syllabus in its' schools through a programme of training support for RE co-ordinators, teachers, and school governors.

Three CPD events (two for primaries and one for secondaries) have provided training and support for teachers on the revised Agreed Syllabus and Guidance Material. These events have created opportunities for teachers to engage in development work related to the 2013 syllabus, and have provided an opportunity for the LA to monitor its implementation.

In addition, the LA has provided support for governors in schools by organising three training opportunities on the revised Agreed Syllabus (two Governor Forum workshops and one CPD event). This has been to assist governors in fulfilling their statutory duties for ensuring appropriate provision for RE in their schools.

## **e. Additional guidance/monitoring and evaluation of the Agreed Syllabus**

A separate Guidance Material document has been produced to support subject managers and class teachers in their use of the 2013 Agreed Syllabus (which is in addition to the additional guidance included within the syllabus document itself). This can also be

accessed electronically from the Doncaster Council website, together with other relevant curriculum support materials.

#### **4. Collective Worship**

Community schools (and academies and free schools in accordance with their funding agreements, trust deeds or charters) have a legal duty to provide a daily act of collective worship for all pupils not withdrawn by their parents.

The revised 2013 Agreed Syllabus makes specific reference to the intrinsic value of collective worship, but reinforces the statutory distinction between it and RE, and the time that should be set aside for both:

“RE and collective worship both contribute to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils in their distinctive ways. However, the curriculum time allocation for RE does not include time set aside for daily collective worship, which is a separated school activity”.

##### **a. Support for Collective Worship**

Schools have received support for developing their Collective Worship practice through the SACRE e newsletters. For example, schools have been provided with the web link to the Collective Worship Guidance and Model from Bradford SACRE, as well as being reminded that BBC school radio has a collection of stories to support assemblies and collective worship in primary schools.

##### **b. Monitoring provision**

Of the Ofsted inspections reports sampled this year, none have indicated a failure to comply with the statutory requirements for Collective Worship.

- There has been no LA monitoring of the provision of Collective Worship this year.
- There have been no applications for determinations in Collective Worship this year.
- There have been no formal complaints about Collective Worship this year.

#### **5. Contribution of the SACRE to the community cohesion agenda**

##### **a. Representative nature of the SACRE Appendix 4**

SACRE aims to reflect the religious and ethnic diversity of the local area. The membership of Group A includes representatives from the Muslim, Jewish, and Baha'i faiths, and approaches continue to be made to try and recruit a representative from the Sikh community. A range of Christian denominations are also represented within Group A (Methodist, Baptist, Roman Catholic, the Society of Friends, and the Unitarian and Free Christian Church. A co-opted Humanist representative is part of Group A. Group B consists of four representatives from the Church of England. Some of the members of Groups C and D (the Teachers Associations and the Local Authority) have religious faith backgrounds.

The Clerk to SACRE works to ensure that its membership reflects the diversity of the local area by pursuing vacancies as they arise. As members leave, the faith group they represent is asked to nominate a replacement. The SACRE Constitution specifies that

the SACRE review the composition and attendance of each committee annually (usually at the beginning of each academic year).

### **b. Knowledge and understanding of the local religious, cultural, and ethnic minorities**

The diversity of the SACRE membership ensures that there are appropriate channels of communication between the SACRE and the constituent faith and cultural groups in the local area. SACRE members have the opportunity to represent to SACRE the interests and concerns of their faith communities, and also keep their faith communities informed about the work of SACRE.

Some SACRE members are also members of the College Chaplaincy Group, and other SACRE members are active members of the local Interfaith Group. Their knowledge and experience support the work of SACRE.

### **c. Understanding the intrinsic contribution which RE can make to social, racial, and religious harmony and to community cohesion.**

By ensuring that the Agreed Syllabus reflects the diversity of faiths not only in the local area but nationally, and that the revised Agreed Syllabus emphasises the importance of RE in promoting social, racial, and religious harmony, SACRE has already engaged in an important contribution to community cohesion. The new SACRE representative for the Doncaster Unitarian and Free Christian Church on Committee A is also the Secretary of Doncaster Interfaith, and this may well lead to a greater focus on interfaith initiatives in the future which promotes community cohesion.

The SACRE e newsletter is not only for the information of all schools in Doncaster, but for the SACRE also. It has kept the SACRE informed about events and resources relevant to RE that promote greater understanding and harmony within communities

This year the local mosque formally requested support from the LA and SACRE to help it develop its educational links with local schools (which are already quite well established through school visits and talks). SACRE continues to publicise updated mosque contact details through the SACRE e newsletter, and has added the local mosque to its mailing list for this e newsletter.

### **d. Links to Local Authority initiatives promoting diversity**

Doncaster Local Authority has a long established tradition of promoting diversity through the Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS). A key aim of the service is to promote equality and community cohesion, and to establish partnerships with schools. EMTAS can support schools to meet their spiritual, moral, social and cultural duty by identifying and enhancing diversity aspects of the curriculum. It has a resource base where artefacts, books and resources are available on loan to support work on religious education in schools.

### **Summary**

The Ofsted RE Report: "Realising the Potential" (October 2013) is yet another document which has highlighted the "unintended consequences" of government policy in excluding RE from the new English Baccalaureate (EBacc). It again raises concerns about lack of

specialist RE staff in schools and its impact on RE teaching, particularly in secondary schools. SACRE will continue to monitor closely the impact that government education policy has on future examination entries in Religious Studies in Doncaster schools.

SACRE is pleased that the guidance to inspectors following this Ofsted report reinforces the fact that all state funded secondary schools have to provide meaningful RE at Key Stages 3 and 4. In addition, it is reassuring to know that on the back of the RE Review Report 2013, the government has provided an allocation of funding for an RE Expert Subject Advisory Group to be allocated to support the teaching of RE in schools.

It has been a busy year for SACRE, with increasingly packed agendas to address. The recruitment of new representatives to SACRE has been very welcome, and SACRE looks forward with optimism to the challenges of the forthcoming year.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1: SACRE meetings, attendance, and matters discussed

Appendix 2: The Religious Education and Collective Worship e-newsletters  
from the Doncaster SACRE

Appendix 3: Glossary of terms used in this report

Appendix 4: Membership of the Doncaster SACRE 2013-14

## SACRE MEETINGS, ATTENDANCE, AND MATTERS DISCUSSED

**26 NOVEMBER 2013** 13 present; 2 apologies; 5 absences; 2 in attendance (Quorate).

- Election of Chair (B Upton) and Vice-Chair (K Rodgers) of SACRE
- Annual review of SACRE membership and attendance 2012-13: action to be taken to address attendance issues (the importance of ensuring that SACRE was quorate was emphasised), and fill existing vacancies. Some of the local organisations/faith groups approached this year about interest in representation on SACRE had yet to reply, and they were to be approached again.
- RE Agreed Syllabus 2013 Launch Event and training for teachers: the revised syllabus was launched successfully in July, and was now displayed in the SACRE area of the Doncaster website <http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/lasre>. Three training events had been held on the 2013 agreed syllabus and guidance document - two for primary school staff and one for secondary school staff.
- Request from the local mosque for support from the LA to develop its educational links with local schools (which are already quite well established through school visits and talks). SACRE would continue to publicise mosque contact details through the SACRE e-newsletter. Discussion on how to help schools and teachers develop good RE practice and how to strengthen the link between schools, the Local Authority and the local faith groups. It was agreed that it was desirable to have an educational network that extended to all faith groups in the local area. However, SACRE requests for information from teachers to share their faith contact links had not yielded any information.
- Ofsted RE Report: realising the potential Oct 2013. This highlighted the “unintended consequences” of government policy in excluding RE from the new English Baccalaureate (EBacc), and raised concerns about lack of specialist RE staff in schools and its impact on RE teaching, particularly in secondary schools
- RE Review Report 2013: the national framework for RE had been updated in line with developments in the current National Curriculum Review, with an allocation of government funding for an RE Expert Subject Advisory Group to be allocated to support the teaching of RE in schools. The LA plans to refer to the new RE curriculum framework document in any future review of the agreed syllabus.
- SACRE advice for schools following Woolwich: should SACRE produce a specific guidance document in response to this incident? The LA had already received one request from a school asking for advice regarding the procedure for what needed to be done if a parent wished to withdraw their child from all of RE teaching or from a particular RE topic area. It was decided that, because the 2013 RE Guidance Material already contained advice for schools on this matter, the LA would reply to each enquiry individually.
- School Governors: Responsibilities for RE. The LA informed school leaders and governors about the guidance documents produced by the RE Council for governing bodies in primary and secondary schools about their responsibilities for RE, and how they might support best practice in their schools. The LA had arranged to support Governors in their duties by providing three training opportunities (two Governor Forums and one workshop) in the Spring term.
- Summary and analysis of school Ofsted reports: SACRE reviewed the snap-shot summary of schools inspected since September 2013

- SACRE Self-Evaluation and Development Plan. The key priority of the development plan had been successfully achieved i.e. the review of the agreed syllabus and guidance material. The SACRE e newsletter has continued to be an effective tool for supporting schools. SACRE membership and attendance is monitored on a termly basis, and a summary annual review has been introduced. SACRE does not have the resources to routinely monitor provision and standards in RE and collective worship in schools – this needs to rely on School Leadership teams. However, the LA does support the monitoring of provision for SMSC through a sampling of Ofsted reports.
- SACRE area of the Doncaster Council website: this is a newly created area for the 2013 local agreed syllabus and guidance material which can easily be updated. A copyright statement was in process. A new SACRE website administrator had been appointed
- RE Newsletters: the NASACRE autumn 2013 newsletter was provided for the reference of members. It was proposed that the SACRE e-newsletter should be made available on the SACRE section of the Doncaster website, as well as directly e mailed to schools.
- Farmington Fellowships: the LA agreed to distribute information about this wonderful professional development opportunity for RE teachers to schools.

**2 APRIL 2014** 7 present; 7 apologies; 4 absent; 2 in attendance  
(Quorate)

- SACRE meetings correspondence: in future this would display a full list of member names/allegiances by Committee to familiarise members with the SACRE structure and representation
- SACRE membership and attendance updates: the merits of different timings for SACRE meetings was discussed with a view to boosting future attendance, particularly on Committee C. Teachers appear to be having difficulty getting release time from schools during the school day. It was further discussed how to encourage new membership to SACRE – approaches to the Quaker community, the Legacy Church, and the Rev Tom Mcready (Interfaith) were agreed.
- Developing the SACRE Website: this is now active on the council website and will be updated with items such as the SACRE e Newsletter and the redacted version of the annual report.
- Postponement of agenda items to the summer term meeting:  
Presentation on 2013 RS Exam Results  
Approval of the draft SACRE Annual Report 2012-3  
SACRE Self-evaluation  
This was due to circumstances beyond the LA's control, and also due to time issues.
- Expert Advisory Group for RE: funded by central government, this group was inviting interested teachers to consider getting involved in national development work on RE. For the information of members from Committee C of SACRE.
- NASACRE AGM: the SACRE Consultant to attend on the 22 May
- SACRE e-newsletter for schools: the Spring 2014 edition has been distributed. A hardcopy had been printed for the information of SACRE members. However, there was no NASACRE e-newsletter for SACRE members.
- School Governor training about the new Agreed Syllabus and Guidance Material had taken place through the Governor Forum workshops and the CPD programme
- Some secondary schools misunderstanding the requirement for the delivery of RE within their schools: clarification about this to be signposted to governors and school leaders through their bespoke summer term newsletters
- Public concerns about a local academy: the LA had been contacted for advice about concerns raised by two members of the public about the programme of RE in a local



academy. A discussion took place as to what the SACRE response should be to such an enquiry. It was agreed that advice would be sent to the enquirers, and that the named academy would be contacted to inform it of this public concern.

- School engagement with local places of worship: a discussion took place about how SACRE might best support the fostering of this. Effective relationships had been developed between schools and the local mosque and gurdwara with the support of SACRE members. It was deemed highly desirable that something similar might be developed with a local Christian place of worship. The RC representative on the SACRE said that he would explore with local clergy the possibility of developing an educational package for school visits to St Peters In Chains.

**25 JUNE 2014** 13 present; 4 apologies; 2 absences; 2 in attendance  
(Quorate)

- Membership and attendance: two new members appointed to Committee A, representing the Doncaster Society of Friends and Doncaster Interfaith; one new member appointed to Committee B. The difficulties of recruiting new members to Committee C discussed. In the absence of responses from the teacher unions approached, one idea raised was to contact all Doncaster schools directly for expressions of interest.
- Presentation 2013 Religious Studies Examination Results: with regards to GCSE entries, comparison with other subjects appeared to show that RE has suffered through not being part of the English Baccalaureate. The number of schools entering students for Full Course GCSE had declined slightly. A similar number of students as last year had been entered for the short course GCSE. However AS/A level entries had more than doubled, with more schools entering students.
- Draft SACRE Annual Report 2012-13: it had been simplified, and after consideration was approved by SACRE. A redacted version (excluding confidential information) would be displayed on the Local Authority website for all to see, and a copy be sent to NASACRE.
- SACRE Self Evaluation RE Tool from NASACRE: SACRE was split into Committees to address different parts of section 1 of the “Toolkit”. It generated a lot of discussion within the Committees, but feedback proved time-consuming and was incomplete. It was felt that the document was too detailed for SACRE’s purpose of self-evaluation, given Doncaster’s particular context. Instead a simplified evaluation format that was an integral part of every SACRE meeting was deemed desirable. However, the experience raised a lot of questions about the potential of SACRE representatives for being involved in supporting good RE in schools, and for the possible need for SACRE to refine its role in line with the Voluntary sector.
- Ofsted Reports 2013-14: the RE Adviser sampled 10 Ofsted reports from Doncaster schools whose overall effectiveness was judged to be less than good. This was to see if the quality of SMSC (spiritual, moral, social and cultural) development in those schools was also less than good. In all cases where there was a comment, the provision and quality of SMSC were commented upon favourably by Ofsted and therefore did not reflect the overall judgement. This is very reassuring, given the continuing importance that Ofsted places on the provision of SMSC development in schools.
- NASACRE AGM May 2015: “Rising to the Challenge”. This had been attended by the RE Adviser – detailed feedback to found on the NASACRE website. The document 20+ ideas for SACREs was briefly looked at – this would be part of the self-evaluation process for the next meeting

- Newsletters: the NASACRE newsletter had, unusually, not been produced. The Summer SACRE e-newsletter was provided for members' consideration. An archive of Doncaster SACRE e newsletters was being created on the Doncaster Council website.

## **The Religious Education and Collective Worship e-newsletters from the Doncaster SACRE**

### **THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP E-NEWSLETTER**

**From the Doncaster SACRE  
(Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education)**

**Autumn 2013**

Welcome to this term's edition of the Doncaster SACRE e-newsletter. Doncaster SACRE aims to support RE and Collective Worship in all schools by providing local and national updates, advice about best practice, and information about new resources.

## **CONTENTS**

### **LOCAL UPDATES**

**The 2013 Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education has been launched!**

**Visits to the local mosque and gurdwara**

**Developing support for school visits to places of worship**

### **NATIONAL UPDATES**

**2013 Ofsted Report on the state of RE**

**Governing Bodies: briefing papers on RE**

**Assuring provision for RE in maintained schools from NATRE**

**DfE support for RE at last!**

### **GENERAL**

**Providing staff training on RE in your school**

**SMSC Online**

**Stories for Collective Worship (Primary)**

**Ideas for Foundation Stage RE**

**Truetube resources for schools**

**TES web resources for RE**

**Seeds of Learning in RE**

**Planning your New Year Resolutions (KS2 Humanism)**

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Interfaith Week 17th-23rd Nov 2013**

**National Holocaust Day 27 Jan 2014**

**Religious Festivals Nov-Dec 2013**

## LOCAL UPDATES

### **THE 2013 AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RE HAS BEEN LAUNCHED!**

The official launch of the 2013 Agreed Syllabus and guidance material took place on 3 July 2013 at the Mary Woollett Centre. The 2013 syllabus replaces the 2006 syllabus. For information about the statutory requirement for RE, and access to these new materials please go to [www.doncaster.gov.uk/lasre](http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/lasre)

Training on the new syllabus and guidance was held in September and October 2013 for both primary and secondary schools. Future network training meetings for teachers of religious education are being planned (by request).

### **VISITS TO THE LOCAL MOSQUE AND GURDWARA**

If you want to plan a school visit to the local gurdwara then contact Surat Singh on 07976 432586.

If you want to plan a school visit to the local mosque then contact Shaheed Syed on 01302 862602 or e-mail [shaheed.syed@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:shaheed.syed@doncaster.gov.uk)

### **SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL VISITS TO PLACES OF WORSHIP**

Doncaster SACRE would like to construct a database of contact details to assist schools planning visits to local places of worship. They would like this database to reflect the range of religious groups and denominations in the Doncaster area.

Our starting point is teachers. Many of you may already have well established schools visit links. Please help us to help you by sending me the contact details for the places of worship that you already visit. I will follow these up for permission to enter on the database, which will then be made available to you all. E mail Pat Cassidy [patricia.cassidy@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:patricia.cassidy@doncaster.gov.uk) . Many thanks.

## NATIONAL UPDATES

### **2013 OFSTED REPORT ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Called "Religious education: realising the potential", this recent subject report from Ofsted found that around half of 185 schools visited had changed curriculum provision for RE in response to education policy. The English Baccalaureate league table measure does not include RE within its humanities bracket, and short course GCSEs have been removed from headline measures of school performance.

A summary of the report findings can be found at:

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/resources/religious-education-realising-potential>

Teachers, if you want ideas for how to use this report in your schools, go to the Free Resources section of the NATRE website and read the document entitled "Using the 2013 Ofsted report to support RE" <http://www.natre.org.uk/free.php>

### **GOVERNING BODIES: BRIEFING PAPERS ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Following the recent report into the supply and support for RE teachers by the All Party Parliamentary Group on RE, briefing papers on RE have been produced for governors in primary and secondary schools. The papers outline schools' responsibilities with regards

to RE, give an overview of the problems identified by the report, and suggest actions governors might undertake to bring about improvement in their schools.

The Primary and Secondary briefing papers can be found at: <http://religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/educators/school-governors-primary-and-secondary-re-briefing-papers>

### **ASSURING RE PROVISION IN MAINTAINED SCHOOLS**

If you are concerned that the curriculum provision for RE in your school does not meet the statutory requirement, then NATRE have produced a complaints protocol for you to refer to. Find the complaints protocol document on the free resources section of the NATRE website at <http://www.natre.org.uk/free.php>

### **DfE SUPPORT FOR RE AT LAST!**

Michael Gove In July admitted that RE had been an “unintended casualty” of many recent curriculum reforms – he thought that RE’s “special status was protection enough”, but has been proved wrong. He has expressed an interest in helping to rectify that, and now the DfE has announced it will fund an RE Expert Subject Advisory Group to develop good practice in RE e.g. exemplification, resources, assessment, etc. This is in line with the support provided for the newly revised National Curriculum subjects, and is a step in the right direction.

### **GENERAL**

#### **PROVIDING STAFF TRAINING ON RE IN YOUR SCHOOL**

NATRE has produced some great short films on RE which are ideal for your staff training sessions. Teachers who viewed them at the recent LA training sessions were excited by these resources, and resolved to use them in schools.

The seven “Good Learning in RE” films are full of great teaching and learning ideas for both primary and secondary schools. They provide wonderful examples of good practice in RE, and are supported by planning outlines that can be downloaded. In addition the four “Films Exploring RE” provide an effective outline of the nature, purpose and value of RE for your staff training.

Go to <http://www.natre.org.uk/index.php> and click on the relevant links. You won’t be disappointed.

#### **SMSC ONLINE**

Take a look at this website which aims to support the integration of spiritual, moral, social and cultural values across all aspects of school life. There are lots of free resources. Go to: <http://www.smsc.org.uk>

#### **STORIES FOR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP (PRIMARY)**

BBC school radio has a collection of stories to support assemblies and collective worship in primary schools. Check out the details on the BBC website at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/learning/schoolradio>

#### **IDEAS FOR FOUNDATION STAGE RE**

Be inspired by the 10 Beginnings for Foundation Stage RE on the NATRE website <http://www.natre.org.uk/free.php>

#### **TRUETUBE RESOURCES FOR RE**

RE teachers at the recent LA training on the Agreed Syllabus liked the resources from this website, so please take a look. One primary deputy head teacher commented on how accessible the language was in a Sikhism film clip we looked at called "Blood and Milk ". The secondary teachers really liked the film "How Islam Began in under Ten Minutes". There is much, much more!

<http://www.trueTube.co.uk>

### **TES WEB RESOURCES FOR RE**

You can access teaching and learning ideas and resources for all curriculum areas on the Times Education Supplement website – including RE. <http://www.tes.co.uk/teaching-resources>

### **SEEDS OF LEARNING WEBSITE**

Use the 18 new lesson plans to explore the links between Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Humanism and plants. Go to <http://www.bgci.org/education/seedsOfUnityResources>

### **PLANNING YOUR NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS (KS2 HUMANISM)**

Resolution Revolution is an initiative from the British Humanist Association to get more people volunteering and doing things to help other people. The primary teachers' toolkit can be downloaded from the BHA website and encourages KS2 children to live positively, regardless of religion or belief, and to set and achieve goals, contributing to their spiritual, moral and social development.

<https://humanism.org.uk/humanism/humanism-today/humanists-doing/resolution-revolution>

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

The web links below will help you to plan activities to commemorate these important events:

**INTERFAITH WEEK** 17th-23rd Nov 2013

<http://www.interfaithweek.org>

**NATIONAL HOLOCAUST DAY** 27 Jan 2014

<http://www.hmd.org.uk/year/education/2014>

**RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS** Nov-Dec 2013

If you wish to track the main religious festivals being celebrated Nov-Dec 2013, then go to the RE:Online website at <http://www.reonline.org.uk/supporting/festivals-calendar/>

**Compiled by Pat Cassidy, SACRE Consultant, on behalf of Doncaster SACRE.**

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[john.duhig@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:john.duhig@doncaster.gov.uk) or  
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## **THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP E-NEWSLETTER**

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**Spring 2014**

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#### **LOCAL UPDATES**

- **RE Network Meeting 1 April**
- **SACRE e newsletters on the Doncaster Council website**
- **Visits to the local mosque and gurdwara**
- **Visits to other local places of worship**

#### **NATIONAL UPDATES**

- **Some secondary schools misunderstand the legal position of RE**
- **RE Expert Subject Advisory Group ( DfE)**

#### **GENERAL**

- **Collective Worship: Guidance and Model Policy**
- **History of Religion**
- **Islam: Online free course from Cardiff University**
- **Hinduism: Hindu Council UK website resources**
- **#REchatUK**
- **Interactive Truetube resources for RE**
- **Dates for your diary: Religious Festivals 2014**

#### **LOCAL UPDATES**

##### **RE NETWORK MEETING 1 April**

This event at the Mary Woollett Centre will provide a forum for co-ordinators and teachers of religious education to network, share good practice, and engage in practical development work in religious education linked to the 2013 Agreed Syllabus. Contact Kerry Rawson if you wish to attend this event  
[Kerry.rawson@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:Kerry.rawson@doncaster.gov.uk)

## **SACRE e NEWSLETTERS ON THE DONCASTER COUNCIL WEBSITE**

You can now access this newsletter, and also past e newsletters (they contain lots of useful resource web links) on the Doncaster Council website. Go to [www.doncaster.gov.uk/lasre](http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/lasre) and then click on the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education link in the Main Section menu. The e newsletters appear under the Documents menu on this second page.

## **VISITS TO THE LOCAL MOSQUE AND GURDWARA**

If you want to plan a school visit to the local gurdwara then contact Surat Singh on 07976 432586.

If you want to plan a school visit to the local mosque then we can now supply you with the following two contacts:

- Shaheed Syed (Muslim representative on the SACRE) on 01302 833441, or by e mail at [is.doncaster@gmail.com](mailto:is.doncaster@gmail.com)
- Imaam Zakaria, Doncaster Jamai Mosque at [www.doncastermosque.co.uk](http://www.doncastermosque.co.uk) or [imaam@doncastermosque.co.uk](mailto:imaam@doncastermosque.co.uk)

## **VISITS TO OTHER LOCAL PLACES OF WORSHIP**

Doncaster SACRE needs your help. Do you plan visits to a place of worship in your area? Would you mind sharing your contact details with us so we can compile a data base for everyone to share?

Ideally we would like this database to reflect the range of religious groups and denominations in the Doncaster area. E mail Pat Cassidy, SACRE consultant, at [patricia.cassidy@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:patricia.cassidy@doncaster.gov.uk). Many thanks in anticipation of your support.

## **NATIONAL UPDATES**

### **SOME SECONDARY SCHOOLS MISUNDERSTAND THE LEGAL POSITION OF RE**

Some secondary school leadership teams understood the omission of RE from the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) as a statement that it no longer has to be taught at Key Stage 4. This is not the case, and Michael Gove, the Secretary of State for Education has said "The Government is committed to maintaining the status of RE as a compulsory subject that all pupils must study throughout their schooling". (Extract taken from the Guidance for Governing Bodies of Secondary Schools by the Religious Education Council)

To re-state the statutory requirement for RE in maintained schools: RE must be taught to all registered pupils at the school (including those in the sixth form), except for those withdrawn by their parents (or withdrawing themselves if they are aged 18 or over). All pupils have a statutory entitlement to learning in RE as part of a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

### **RE EXPERT SUBJECT ADVISORY GROUP (DfE)**

Are you interested in applying to join an important teacher group that will aim to undertake some national development work in RE – e.g. develop resources, assessment and exemplification material? If so then express an interest and respond to the letter found at:

[http://www.nasacre.org.uk/media/file/RE\\_EAG\\_invitation2.pdf](http://www.nasacre.org.uk/media/file/RE_EAG_invitation2.pdf)

## **GENERAL**



## **COLLECTIVE WORSHIP: GUIDANCE AND MODEL**

Have a look at the document produced by Bradford SACRE. Go to: <http://bso.bradford.gov.uk/userfiles/file/Diversity%20and%20Cohesion/Geraldine/Collective%20Worship%20Model%20PolicyFinal.pdf>

## **HISTORY OF RELIGION**

If you want to show your students 5,000 years of religion in just a few minutes then take a look at this multi-media site with its diverse creative materials. It shows how the major world religions developed and spread.

<http://www.mapsofwar.com/ind/history-of-religion.html>

## **ISLAM: ONLINE FREE COURSE FROM CARDIFF UNIVERSITY**

“Muslims in Britain: changes and challenges” is an online free course from Cardiff University that allows you to develop your understanding of Muslims and their faith through an exploration of communities in Britain. Go to <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/muslims-in-britain>

## **HINDUISM: HINDU COUNCIL UK WEBSITE RESOURCES**

The Hindu Council UK has developed a web presence for learning about Hinduism at both primary and secondary level. Check it out at: <http://www.hinduacademy.org/schools/>

## **#REchatUK**

#REchatUK is an opportunity for teachers and those who are interested in RE to share ideas and support each other every month. The chat session on Monday 3 March focused on “Teaching difficult and sensitive issues in RE” – you can catch up with this at <http://storify.com/NATREupdate/rechatuk-03-03-14> . Consider getting involved in the next chat session on April 7th.

## **INTERACTIVE TRUETUBE RESOURCES FOR RE**

Interactive Resources is the new development on TrueTube. A few of these wonderful films have simple drag and drop exercises to reinforce the learning. Take a look at these at this link: <https://www.truetube.co.uk/interactive-resources>

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS 2014**

If you wish to track the main religious festivals being celebrated in 2014 then go to the RE:Online website at: <http://www.reonline.org.uk/supporting/festivals-calendar>

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# **THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP E-NEWSLETTER**

**From the Doncaster SACRE  
(Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education)**

**Summer 2014**

Welcome to this term's edition of the Doncaster SACRE e-newsletter. Doncaster SACRE aims to support RE and Collective Worship in all schools by providing local and national updates, advice about best practice, and information about new resources.

Back copies of the e-newsletters can be found on the SACRE section of the Doncaster Council website (they contain lots of useful resource web links). Go to [www.doncaster.gov.uk/lasre](http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/lasre) and then click on the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education link in the Main Section menu. The e-newsletters appear under the Documents menu on this second page.

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### **LOCAL UPDATES**

- **Doncaster Minster**
- **Visits to the local mosque and gurdwara**
- **Visits to other local places of worship (appeal)**

### **NATIONAL UPDATES**

- **2014 NATRE survey (secondary)**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> APPG Report: RE and Community Relations**

### **GENERAL**

- **RE Today Virtual Seminars**
- **New Teach RE website**
- **New Baha'i resources**
- **Hindu Council UK resources**
- **Interfaith Explorers**
- **Exploring the WW1 Centenary in RE: What Price Peace?**
- **Humanism**
- **Dates for your diary: Religious Festivals 2014**

### **LOCAL UPDATES:**

#### **DONCASTER MINSTER**

Take a look at the Doncaster Minster website – there is a lot going on at <http://www.doncasterminster.org/> If you click on the visitors tab, then you will find information about the Minster Creatures Quest, as well as an extensive list of workshops

that the Minster offers to schools and other visitors. For example, devise a Minster Treasure Hunt, or create a stained glass window story. The website is a wonderful resource for teachers planning a school visit to the Minster.

### **VISITS TO THE LOCAL MOSQUE AND GURDWARA**

If you want to plan a school visit to the local gurdwara then contact Surat Singh on 07976 432586.

If you want to plan a school visit to the local mosque then we can now supply you with the following two contacts:

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### **VISITS TO OTHER LOCAL PLACES OF WORSHIP (2<sup>nd</sup> appeal)**

Doncaster SACRE needs your help. Do you plan visits to a place of worship in your area?

Are you a place of worship that offers educational activities for schools – and if not, might you consider developing them in the future?

Would you mind sharing your contact details with us so we can compile a data base for everyone to share?

Ideally we would like this database to reflect the range of religious groups and denominations in the Doncaster area. E mail Pat Cassidy, SACRE consultant, at [patricia.cassidy@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:patricia.cassidy@doncaster.gov.uk). Many thanks in anticipation of your support.

### **NATIONAL UPDATES:**

#### **2014 NATRE SURVEY (SECONDARY)**

This is the 5<sup>th</sup> annual survey on RE in secondary schools in England. Your information provides NATRE with invaluable details to inform its on-going campaign to secure the place of RE in the curriculum in all types of schools in the face of significant challenges from changes in the curriculum. The **deadline for completion is 25 July**. Make sure you have your say! Go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/impactRE2014>

#### **2<sup>ND</sup> APPG REPORT: RE AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

The All Party Parliamentary Group on RE has produced its second report highlighting RE's role in promoting good community relations. It makes a number of recommendations. The summary document can be found at [http://religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/media/file/APPG\\_report\\_RE\\_and\\_good\\_community\\_re.pdf](http://religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/media/file/APPG_report_RE_and_good_community_re.pdf)

### **GENERAL:**

#### **RE TODAY VIRTUAL SEMINARS**

To provide CPD opportunities for RE teachers who find it difficult to request training time out of the classroom, RE Today are launching a range of termly virtual seminars for both primary and secondary teachers which you can take part in online, wherever you are. They run 4.00pm – 5.15 pm.

For example, "Revising your KS3 for next year" takes place on Tuesday 24 June with Lat Blaylock. It will be useful to anyone interested in the development of the 11-14

curriculum, linking to other subjects and establishing the best of RE. Go to: <https://attendee.gototraining.com/registration/full.tpl?branding=8m501&training=1175450855854695937>

### **NEW TEACH RE WEBSITE**

Culham St Gabriel's have launched the new Teach RE website [www.teachre.co.uk](http://www.teachre.co.uk) This provides a portal for all those who want to teach RE, are already teaching RE and those who have to teach RE.

### **NEW BAHAI RESOURCES**

The UK Baha'i community's RE Task Force has produced a new Teacher's Resource Pack at KS2. It will be available from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 through the Warwick Baha'i Bookshop, 6 Welsh Road West, Southam, Warks CV47 OJN. [enquiries@warwickbahaibookshop.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@warwickbahaibookshop.co.uk) Materials for other key stages can be provided on request.

Remember to take a look at the Baha'i website links in the Agreed Syllabus Guidance Material: [www.bahai.org.uk](http://www.bahai.org.uk). Most useful for teachers is the Baha'i Religious Education Agency (BREA) web link <http://www.brea.org/> which has ideas and resources for teaching about the Baha'i faith in schools.

### **HINDU COUNCIL UK RESOURCES**

The Hindu Council UK have uploaded new video resources that might be of interest to teachers exploring Hinduism. New videos include:

Role of dance and drama in Hinduism

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t166LmkoLC4>

Other resources are aimed at GCSE students studying Hinduism:

Basics, Rituals and Scriptures of Hinduism

Philosophy and practices in temple

<http://www.tamilan.org.uk/gcse1.html>

### **INTERFAITH EXPLORERS**

This is a free UNESCO-supported online educational learning resource designed to add value to RE in ways that help young people respect religious and cultural diversity, and embrace similarities. Help your pupils become an Interfaith Explorer! Go to <http://interfaithexplorers.com/> for teachers and <http://interfaithexplorers.com/for-pupils> for pupils.

### **EXPLORING THE WW1 CENTENARY IN RE: WHAT PRICE PEACE?**

This is a new project from Barnabas in schools. It is one of a number of resources on the Barnabas website which explores Christianity creatively. Take a look at:

<http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/extra-resources/#AssembliesforAutumnFestival>

### **HUMANISM**

The British Humanist Association are presenting a **free day-conference on 16 July** (in London) for RE teachers to explore Humanism and the inclusion of non-religious perspectives in RE. Go to the BHA website

<https://humanism.org.uk/events/?page=CiviCRM&q=civicrm/event/info&reset=1&id=67>

Take a look at the new and updated resources on the Humanism for Schools website, including guidance on SMSC for non-religious students.

<http://humanismforschools.org.uk/>

Four animated videos on Humanism, narrated by Stephen Fry, cover the themes: How do we know what is true? What should we think about death? What makes something right or wrong? How can I be happy? Watch them at <https://humanism.org.uk/thatshumanism/>

#### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS 2014**

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The information in this newsletter is for teachers and schools to use at their professional discretion. It in no way represents Doncaster LA endorsement of organisations or materials.

If you wish for further information and advice, please contact John Duhig, Head of Service Education Standards and Effectiveness at [john.duhig@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:john.duhig@doncaster.gov.uk) or Pat Cassidy at [patricia.cassidy@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:patricia.cassidy@doncaster.gov.uk)

## **Glossary of terms used in this report**

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AREIAC: Association of Religious Education Inspectors, Advisers and Consultants

LA: Local Authority

REC: Religious Education Council

NATRE: National Association of Teachers of Religious Education

NASACRE: National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education

SACRE : Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

SMSC development: Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development

## Membership of the Doncaster SACRE 2013-2014

### Committee A (Christian and other Religious denominations)

Vacant	Buddhist
J Gessler	Jewish
Vacant	Hindu/Buddhist
S Norburn	Humanist
J Moreland	Roman Catholic
J Reasbeck	Methodist
J Stephenson	Baptist
S Syed	Muslin
B Tiemoori	Baha'i
B Gillham	Balby (Doncaster) Society of Friends
Rev T McCready	Doncaster Interfaith
Vacant	Sikh

### Committee B (The Church of England)

Rev J A Davis  
K Sovell  
B Upton  
M McGuigan  
Vacant

### Committee C (Teachers' Associations)

Vacant x 2	National Association of Schoolmaster/Union of Women Teachers
P Cassidy	National Union of Teachers
Vacant	National Union of Teachers
N Walker	Association of Teachers and Lecturers
Vacant	Association of Teachers and Lecturers
Vacant	National Association of Headteachers

### Committee D (Local Authority Representative)

Councillor S Bolton  
Councillor S Knowles  
Councillor K Rodgers  
Councillor P Schofield