



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## Warwickshire SACRE Newsletter

To: Headteachers and Teachers with responsibility for Religious Education and/or Collective Worship

Issue 4  
7 November 2011

### Welcome to the fourth Warwickshire SACRE newsletter

The national picture for RE has moved on, with the government announcing the decision not to include Religious Studies in the English Baccalaureate on the 20 July. This was extremely disappointing, but it is vital that we look to the future and the RE Council has already started important work to ensure that RE continues to flourish. It was heartening to read this response from the DfE spokesperson to a question from Stoke SACRE:

*“The fact that religious education is a statutory part of the basic curriculum, and that all maintained schools, by law, must provide it for all children throughout their schooling, is its key strength.*

*The head teacher of a school, its governors, and the local authority, remain responsible for ensuring that all maintained schools provide this. Where any school is not meeting its statutory duty in this area the matter can be raised with the head teacher and, if necessary, a formal complaint can be made to the governing body.*

***The English Baccalaureate provides absolutely no excuse for any school to fail to meet this statutory duty and Ministers expect every school in practice to do this.***” (DfE, 24 August 2011, Qualifications Policy Division)

The DfE has produced a useful document intended to reduce school bureaucracy. It outlines a number of common misconceptions and provides factual information on the current legal position or best practice advice for schools. It includes a clear statement that RE remains compulsory, and clarifies that parental consent is not required for most off-site visits.

W: <http://tinyurl.com/3bv64gg>



## Youth SACRE 2012: Change of Date

The original date proposed for the 2012 Youth SACRE event has changed and will now be held on **Wednesday 20th June 2012**. SACRE hopes to be able to open the event to a wider range of pupils this year to include primary schools however details are yet to be confirmed. Please make a note of the date in your diaries and watch this space for more information!

## Interfaith Week Competition: 20-26th November 2011

**C** SACRE would like to promote the involvement of schools in Interfaith Week and is therefore running a competition.  
**O**  
**M** Schools who are participating in Interfaith Week should send details about what they are doing/have done along with any supporting pupil work, photographs etc. to Ruth Waterman, Saltisford Office Park, Ansell Way, Warwick, CV34 4UL or by email to [ruthwaterman@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:ruthwaterman@warwickshire.gov.uk) by **5th December 2011**. All schools will receive a certificate to acknowledge their contribution and SACRE will award £50 to the winning school. Information and a range of resources can be found at [www.interfaithweek.org](http://www.interfaithweek.org)  
**P**  
**E**  
**T**  
**I**  
**T**  
**I**  
**O**  
**N**  
**!**

## Primary RE Network Meetings

The next series of sessions organised for Primary RE teachers will take place on the following dates between 4.30pm and 6.30pm:

**South & Central area:** Wednesday 21 March 2012

**Northern area:** Wednesday 28 March 2012

**Eastern area:** Wednesday 18 April 2012

The sessions are completely free and provide excellent opportunities to get advice and support from the RE adviser; get updates on local and national developments in RE; network with other

RE coordinators; and develop subject knowledge. If you would like to attend one of these sessions, please ensure you book a place by emailing [sacre@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:sacre@warwickshire.gov.uk) or telephone **01926 742075**.

## NATRE Secondary RE Meetings

There is a Warwickshire NATRE (National Association of Teachers of RE) group that meets each term at North Leamington School. This group provides an opportunity for secondary RE teachers to meet, provide support for each other and to share resources and ideas. Dates for meetings this year are:

**Tuesday 28 February 2012**

**Friday 15 June 2012**

Please contact Karen Steele for further information at [readviser@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:readviser@hotmail.co.uk)

## 2012 Accord Inclusive Schools Award



The Accord Coalition is a coalition of religious and non-religious organisations campaigning for inclusive schools. In 2009 they launched the prestigious Accord Inclusivity Award which recognises those schools who have done the most to embody an ethos of inclusion.

They are now taking entries for the 2012 awards which will be judged by a distinguished panel of experts. Judges are especially interested in the way that schools address issues of religion and belief, both inside the school and through relationships with local, national and international communities.

**Deadline for entries is Monday 28 November 2011.**

For further details visit:

<http://accordcoalition.org.uk/accord-award-2012/>

## RE Courses and Commissions

RE courses are run by Karen Steele, Religious Education Adviser for Warwickshire SACRE. Karen is an experienced RE teacher and has worked as an adviser to SACRE and schools for three years. Karen regularly runs RE courses and network meetings for teachers in Warwickshire. Karen is also available for commissions and these can be tailored to meet the needs of individual schools or clusters of schools.

### Teaching Primary RE:

**Monday 5 December 2011, 9.30am—2.30pm**

**Brunswick Healthy Living Centre, Leamington Spa,  
CV31 3BD**

**Cost: £95 (includes a light lunch)**

This course is designed for teachers new to teaching religious education, new to teaching, or teachers just wanting a refresher course.

Through careful exploration of the nature and purpose of religious education in the curriculum, delegates will be encouraged to develop their understanding of what constitutes quality religious education. They will be introduced to the key processes involved in planning and the requirements of an Agreed Syllabus.

Throughout there will be a focus on developing confidence as teachers of religious education and creative approaches to the subject.

Although we will be using the revised Warwickshire Agreed Syllabus for RE, the content of the course will be applicable to the QCA non-statutory framework for RE.

### Leading Primary RE:

**Monday 16th January 2012, 9.30am—2.30pm**

**Brunswick Healthy Living Centre, Leamington Spa,  
CV31 3BD**

**Cost: £95 (includes a light lunch)**

This course develops the knowledge, skills and confidence required to face the challenge of leading religious education in a primary school. It will include a detailed exploration of the place of RE in the curriculum and the role and responsibilities of a subject leader, as well as identifying key areas for development in the subject. It will cover aspects of assessment, promoting quality teaching and learning across the school, policy review and the development of planning, monitoring and evaluation.

Please note courses will run subject to numbers.

**To book onto a course or if you would like any further information about the courses or commissions listed above please contact Karen at [readviser@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:readviser@hotmail.co.uk) or on 07582 110839.**

## Useful Websites

 [www.re-handbook.org.uk](http://www.re-handbook.org.uk)

The **Religious Education Handbook** offers a resource for teachers wishing to develop their subject and professional knowledge in the teaching of religion in primary and secondary schools in England.

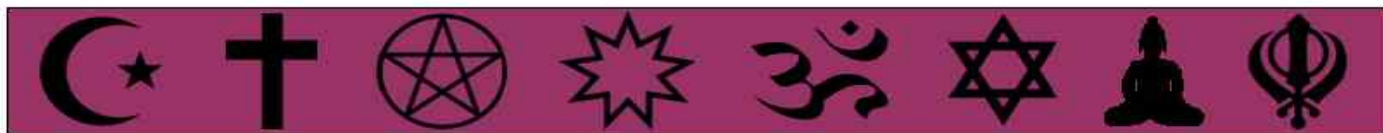
 [www.livingreligion.co.uk](http://www.livingreligion.co.uk)

An online resource from the Study of Religions team at Bath Spa University about **study visits to religious communities** for university students, which also includes a section on 'Trips for Schools'. There are also profiles of a range of religious communities around the country.

 [www.911educationprogramme.co.uk](http://www.911educationprogramme.co.uk)

The new UK educational charity **9 11 London Project** ([www.911londonproject.com](http://www.911londonproject.com)), set up to ensure the legacy of 9/11 is one that 'builds hope from tragedy', has produced a web-based resource to support teaching about the events of 11 September 2001. The resource provides lesson ideas for various secondary subjects including RE and Citizenship and emphasises the importance of dialogue, understanding and compassion.





## Some dates for your diary:

<b>NOVEMBER 2011</b>			<b>JANUARY 2012</b>		
<b>1st</b>	Christian	All Saints' Day (Hallowmas, All Hallows')	<b>1st</b>	Christian	Circumcision
				Shinto	Oshogatsu (Shinto New Year)
<b>2nd</b>	Rastafari	Coronation of Emperor Haile Selassie I	<b>5th</b>	Sikh	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh who instituted the Five Ks
<b>6th</b>	Muslim	Eid-UI-Adha	<b>6th</b>	Christian	Epiphany
<b>10th</b>	Sikh	Birthday of Guru Nanak (Lunar Calendar)	<b>7th</b>	Rastafari	Christmas Day (Ethiopian)
				Christian	Christmas Day (Orthodox)
<b>11th</b>	Multifaith	Armistice Day	<b>14th</b>	Hindu	Makar Sankranti
<b>12th</b>	Baha'i	Birth of Baha'u'llah	<b>23rd</b>	Chinese	Chinese New Year
<b>26th</b>	Muslim	Al-Hijira	<b>FEBRUARY 2012</b>		
<b>30th</b>	Christian	St Andrew's Day	<b>2nd</b>	Pagan	Imbolc (or Oimelc)
<b>DECEMBER 2011</b>			<b>4th</b>	Muslim	Milad un Nabi (Birthday of the Prophet Muhammad)
<b>5th</b>	Muslim	Ashura	<b>8th</b>	Buddhist	Parinirvana (Nirvana Day) - anniversary of Buddha's death
<b>8th</b>	Catholic	Feast of the Immaculate Conception	<b>14th</b>	Christian	St Valentine's Day
	Buddhist	Bodhi Day	<b>20th</b>	Hindu	Mahashivratri
<b>21st</b>	Jewish	Hanukkah	<b>21st</b>	Christian	Shrove Tuesday
<b>22nd</b>	Pagan	Winter Solstice—Yule			

Calendar dates are according to those published online on the BBC Interfaith calendar  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/tools/calendar/>

A copy of this newsletter can also be downloaded from the SACRE website:

[www.warwickshire.gov.uk/sacre](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/sacre)

Any queries relating to the contents of this newsletter should be emailed to [sacre@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:sacre@warwickshire.gov.uk) or in writing to: Clerk to SACRE, Warwickshire County Council, Saltisford Office Park, Warwick CV34 4UL.

Publication date: 07/11/2011

Directorate: Children, Young People & Families

Contact: Ruth Waterman

Telephone: 01926 742075

