



Warwickshire SACRE Newsletter

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

Issue 1, 2 November 2010

Welcome to the first Warwickshire SACRE newsletter

Warwickshire Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) plan to produce at least one newsletter each term in order to inform you of national and local developments and the work of SACRE.

Warwickshire SACRE Information Leaflet

We have produced a leaflet outlining the role of SACRE and the Warwickshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. It is hoped that this will be a useful resource for a range of audiences and should be particularly helpful for staff development. This leaflet will be available to download from the Warwickshire SACRE website.

SACRE website

Warwickshire SACRE's website continues to grow. You will find it at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/sacre. Latest additions include updated versions of the primary units of work and guidance on using the units. Other useful documents are: 'Dealing with sensitive & controversial issues in Religious Education: a practical guide', which includes guidance on visits, visitors, religious artefacts and drama; information about resource loans; and contacts for faith communities in Warwickshire (see section 'Resources for RE Teachers').



RE-action: Celebrating the Community in RE Competition

Warwickshire SACRE has launched a competition for all Warwickshire schools. Entries are invited from teachers who have organised an 'RE event' that involves the wider community. This could include visits to places of worship, RE trails or having a visitor(s) into school. Entries should be recorded by teachers on an entry form along with the related work of one pupil. The form is designed to

promote good practice in organising these events. Prizes will be awarded to teachers and pupils from each key stage at a Celebrating RE event in March 2011. Details can be found at www.warwickshire.gov.uk/sacre and the deadline for entries is the **31 January 2011**. Please take this opportunity to highlight the excellent work that goes on and to win some money for RE in your school!





Calling Year 8 & 9 Pupils

We are currently planning Warwickshire's Celebrating RE event for the afternoon of the 25th March 2011. We would like to involve as many pupils as possible. If you have any RE related work involving Year 8 and/or Year 9 pupils that could be included in the event (music, drama, poetry etc) please let us know. Alternatively, you may wish to develop some work for this event. Please contact Ruth Waterman, the Clerk to SACRE (ruthwaterman@warwickshire.gov.uk), if you require details and/or support.

Inter Faith Week

The 21st - 27th November 2010 is Inter Faith week, a national event organised by the Inter Faith Network for the UK, which aims to: promote good inter faith relations, to increase awareness of the different faith communities in the UK and to increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious belief. Schools are encouraged to get involved and ideas on how you can do this can be found at www.interfaithweek.org or www.wmfaithsforum.org.uk

Ofsted Subject Inspections

A small number of RE subject inspections continue to take place across the country. Schools are randomly selected. Ofsted are about to publish the grade criteria that are used to make judgements during these visits. They will be made available to you on the Warwickshire SACRE website as soon as is possible.

Self Evaluation Tool for RE

A new RE self-evaluation tool has been published by NASACRE. It is designed to support schools in evaluating the provision and quality of its RE; identify priorities for development; and inform the whole-school development plan. The tool and information can be found at www.betterre.reonline.org.uk

REsilience Project: free RE CPD for Secondary Schools

This project is designed to increase confidence in dealing with contentious issues and extremist views in the classroom. Funded by the DFE and led by the RE Council, this project is in the final stages of its development. CPD is school-based. Teachers, with the help of a trained mentor will conduct a self-evaluation and develop an action plan using support materials provided by the project. Teachers interested in the project should register their interest on the website: www.re-silience.org.uk

Secondary NATRE Support Group

A number of Warwickshire secondary schools have been meeting to provide mutual support and share resources. This group is in the process of registering as a National Association of RE teachers (NATRE) group. For details contact Gavin Collins at North Leamington School on 01926 338711/6.

Collective Worship Update

SACRE is aware of the need for updated guidance for Collective Worship and has been waiting for news of national developments before embarking on this work. However, given the recent change in government, it is unlikely that there will be any national news soon. For this reason, SACRE has agreed to make this a priority. More to follow. . .

Assessment in RE Update

A small working party has started work on developing resources to support assessment in RE. In response to feedback from schools, the party is planning to produce student-speak levels and some exemplar assessment 'stories'. We will keep you updated with progress.

Invite SACRE to your school

Warwickshire SACRE holds one meeting each year at a Warwickshire school. This provides a great opportunity for SACRE members to meet with teachers and discuss the important issues facing RE. If you would like to host a SACRE meeting in your school please contact us at sacre@warwickshire.gov.uk



Resourcing RE

Following the recent Warwick report on the materials used to teach world religions, NATRE has developed an excellent section on their website to support teachers when making decisions about resources. This includes a checklist for teachers to use when making these important decisions, and guidance on developing a collection of artefacts www.natre.org.uk/rg/index.php

Staff Development Opportunities

Karen Steele is the RE Adviser for the Educational Development Service (EDS) and works closely with SACRE in this role. As well as regular regional Leading Learning Network (LLN) meetings for subscribing schools, Karen is available for commissions tailored to the needs of schools. Additionally, the following courses are available:

- **Teaching RE – 8 November 2010; Bulkington Village Centre**
This course is designed for primary teachers new to teaching religious education, new to teaching, or teachers just wanting a refresher course.
- **Leading RE – 18 January 2011 & 29 March 2011 (half day)**
This course is designed to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence required to face the challenge of leading religious education in a primary school.

For more details contact Katherine Crawford (katherinecrawford@warwickshire.gov.uk, 01926 413774)

Some dates for your diary:

NOVEMBER 2010

2nd	Rastafari	Coronation of Emperor Haile Selassie I
	Christian	All Souls' Day
5th	Sikh, Hindu & Jain	Diwali
11th	Multifaith	Armistice Day
12th	Baha'i	Birth of Baha'u'llah
14th	Multifaith	Remembrance Sunday
17th	Muslim	Eid-UI-Adha
23rd	Shinto	Niinamesei (Labour Thanksgiving Day)

21st - 27th is National Interfaith Week. See www.interfaithweek.org for more details.

DECEMBER 2010

2nd	Jewish	Hanukkah
7th	Muslim	Al-Hijira (Islamic New Year)
8th	Christian	Feast of the Immaculate Conception
16th	Muslim	Ashura
21st	Pagan	Winter Solstice - Yule
25th	Christian	Christmas Day

JANUARY 2011

1st	Shinto	Oshogatsu
	Secular	New Year's Day
5th	Sikh	Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh
6th	Christian	Epiphany
	Orthodox	Christmas Day
14th	Hindu	Makar Sankranti
18th	Christian	Week of Prayer for Unity
20th	Jewish	Tu B'Shevat
31st	Deadline for SACRE Competition Entries	

FEBRUARY 2011

2nd	Christian Pagan	Presentation of the Lord Imbolc
3rd	Shinto	Setsuban/Bean Scattering
8th	Hindu	Vasant Panchami
	Buddhist	Parinirvana (Nirvana Day)
15th	Muslim (Sunni)	Milad un Nabi (Birthday of the Prophet Muhammad)
18th	Buddhist	Magha Puja
20th	Muslim (Shia)	Milad un Nabi (Birthday of the Prophet Muhammad)

MARCH 2011

1st	Christian	St. David's Day
2nd	Baha'i	Nineteen Day Fast (start)
3rd	Hindu	Mahashivratri
8th	Christian	Shrove Tuesday
9th	Christian	Ash Wednesday
19th	Hindu	Holi
20th	Jewish	Purim
	Sikh	Hola Mohalla
	Pagan	Spring Equinox - Easter
25th	Christian	Annunciation

Warwickshire's Celebrating RE Event

March 2011 is also the national Celebrating RE month which aims to showcase RE and publicise its value and importance for young people. See www.celebratingre.org for more information and ideas for how your school can get involved.

(Calendar dates are according to those published online on the BBC Interfaith calendar)

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

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/sacre

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