

**Recent contacts, etc. with schools, County Hall, etc.**  
**(from 1.6.17 to 9.11.17). Phil André**

**A**

1.6.17: discussions with Chris B. about the forthcoming SACRE meeting (apologies, please) and about whether she can assist with an RE-themed conference to be held in the County in Autumn term. Chris kindly agrees to contribute to the conference, but specifies two weeks in October and November when unavailable.

7.6.17: attend the SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on RE) meeting, County Hall.

9.6.17: for SACRE members unable to attend the SACRE meeting on 7.6.17, a summary is provided of the meeting's most important outcomes (three SACRE members had requested a summary knowing they could not attend). One SACRE member is provided with the dates for the next two meetings.

15.6.17: meeting with Dave C. to firm up ideas about the proposed RE Conference to be held during Autumn term, 2017.

16.6.17: following the meeting with Dave C. on 15.6.17, information is shared with SACRE members who have kindly agreed to run workshops during the Autumn RE Conference (e.g. possible date and venue, start and end times). Also, emails are sent to Karenza Passmore at the NE Religious Resources Centre inviting Centre staff to mount a stall to showcase ways in which the Centre can assist schools/teachers. Also, emails are sent in the hope we can identify people to run workshops about Buddhism and Hinduism. Such hyperactivity inevitably generates yet more emails, queries and clarifications.

16.6.17: discussions with a SACRE member about something called a Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge, and a Provider Form that must be filled in if someone hosting a visit (e.g. at a house of worship) lacks such a badge. It is alleged by the school seeking to arrange a visit to a house of worship that when such a badge does not exist, hosts must complete the Provider Form for health and safety/risk assessment reasons. The school seeking to complete the visit alleges that the badge and/or completed Provider Form are "now part of NCC policy". The Provider Form does have the characteristic NCC title/script at the top of page 1. The SACRE member agrees to pursue the matter with staff in County Hall.

17.6.17: discussions with a SACRE member about RE provision in one of the County's middle schools and advice is provided about how the British values can be taught to pupils in such schools.

19.6.17: discussions with Dave C. about the content of a memo for SACRE members about the Autumn RE Conference.

21.6.17, 26.6.17, 27.6.17 and 29.6.17: a memo about the Autumn RE Conference is circulated to all SACRE members seeking comments on the proposed programme for the day, etc. All SACRE members who reply to the memo comment positively on the proposals and some promise to promote the Conference on their travels around the County. Various queries deriving from the memo are responded to and, on behalf of Chris H, a form deriving from "Barnabas in Schools" is filled in to secure his participation (later, a contract to formalise Chris's participation is signed and posted). A teacher is kindly considering whether he can provide a workshop on Buddhism.

26.6.17: minutes for the 7.6.17 SACRE meeting are examined on behalf of Andrea and a few changes made for technical purposes.

27.6.17 and 28.6.17: text drafted for the next SACRE Newsletter.

28.6.17: emails written to about twenty teachers/schools requesting copy for the next SACRE Newsletter.

3.7.17 and 5.7.17: discussions with SACRE members, etc. about the Autumn RE Conference.

7.7.17: emails written to ten teachers/schools requesting copy for the next SACRE Newsletter.

14.7.17 and 16.7.17: discussions with Dave C. and colleagues in Newcastle about the Autumn RE Conference and the possibility of RE teachers in Newcastle attending the Conference if places exist after it has been promoted in the County.

19.7.17: text for the next SACRE Newsletter proof-read and forwarded to Andrea for publication.

25.7.17: discussions with Elizabeth Howat, Strategic Lead for Secondary Awards at the Archbishop of York's Youth Trust. The trust has for some years (since 2011) been promoting a Young Leaders' Award for pupils and students who manifest a commitment/interest/understanding in/about matters to do with citizenship, SMSC, PSHE, Character Education and/or the British values. Apparently, some schools in Northumberland have already encouraged their pupils and students to secure the award, but Elizabeth wants to know if more schools in the County would be interested in the project. The forthcoming RE Conference seemed an obvious opportunity for information about the award to be circulated to schools/teachers. Elizabeth agrees to forward to me copies of relevant fliers which will be circulated at the forthcoming RE Conference.

24.8.17 and 30.8.17: discussions with two workshop leaders about arrangements for the forthcoming RE Conference.

31.8.17: discussions with a SACRE member about drafting an act of collective worship that might be used in schools seeking a considered response/reflection to a terrorist attack such as the recent one in Barcelona. If such an act of collective worship secures SACRE approval, perhaps the act of collective worship can be uploaded to the SACRE webpage.

4.9.17, 5.9.17 and 12.9.17: discussions with the headteacher, Morpeth First, about National Interfaith Week in school, visits to houses of worship (a church, a synagogue, a mosque, a mandir and a gurdwara) and whether I can provide the school with support before and during the week itself (e.g. preparing the pupils for their visits to the houses of worship).

5.9.17: discussions with Dave C. about the forthcoming RE Conference, etc.

11.9.17, 12.9.17, 13.9.17, etc.: an email sent to about 60 schools/teachers in Northumberland with information about the forthcoming RE Conference. The email contains information about making a booking, etc. The email generates many enquiries from teachers keen to attend the Conference (but also keen to know the cost).

12.9.17: discussions with the RE subject lead, Hexham Middle, about documents that can be forwarded to her (e.g. RE long-term plans, policies for RE and collective worship) to make the task of generating in-house RE paperwork more speedy and less painless.

13.9.17: various documents (e.g. RE and collective worship draft/model policies, RE long-term plans, exemplar key questions to generate RE long-term plans) forwarded to the RE subject lead, Hexham Middle, so she can quickly generate documentation for use in school.

13.9.17 and 14.9.17: discussions with Dave C. about recruitment, etc. for the forthcoming RE Conference.

19.9.17: lessons all day and for all classes, Years 1 to 4, at Morpeth First about harvest/thanksgiving in Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism, with practical teaching and learning activities shared with staff so follow-up work can be undertaken. Discussions with the headteacher about visits to houses of worship associated with the four religions just identified.

20.9.17: a service request form is filled in for the NE Religious Resources Centre to ensure that staff provide a display of resources and fliers, the latter about the Centre, for the forthcoming RE Conference.

26.9.17: emails to Dave C. and the RE Conference workshop leaders about the workshops themselves and recruitment matters. It is agreed that teachers in Newcastle will be encouraged to attend the RE Conference, so information about the conference is sent to Dean Jackson (Head of Children's Services, Newcastle?) who has kindly agreed to advise Newcastle headteachers about the opportunity and circulate the information electronically to every school. Meanwhile, NCC teachers make contact alleging the link to the conference booking form is faulty.

20.10.17: discussions with the headteacher, Ovingham CE First, about parents who want their children to study only Christianity (in the end, the parents agree that their children will also study Judaism), arranging a visit to a mosque and the outcomes of the school's recent Ofsted inspection.

21.10.17: discussions with Mike Turner, North-East Humanists, who has kindly agreed to deputise for Chris B. as a workshop leader during the forthcoming RE Conference. Information is provided about the format, theme, etc. of the conference.

22.10.17: discussions with two SACRE members about the forthcoming RE Conference.

23.10.17: discussions with Andrea about the Commission on Religious Education and how best to encourage SACRE members to engage with the consultation process (which concludes on 4.12.17).

24.10.17, 28.10.17, 30.10.17, 4.11.17 and 5.11.17: queries, etc. relating to the forthcoming RE Conference addressed with workshop leaders (e.g. clarity is provided about notes/briefings that can be generated for dissemination to delegates) and I prepare notes/a briefing for the Islam workshop. Discussions also take place with Kirtida Dasi, who has kindly agreed to support us during the morning of the conference so that a Hinduism workshop can be provided (twice, if necessary).

4.11.17 and 6.11.17: discussions with the RE subject lead, The Sele First, about the religions that MUST be taught at Key Stages 1 and 2 and whether the school would encounter any opposition/problems should it decide to rearrange when two religions are taught while still ensuring that, by the time pupils leave the school, they have nonetheless studied every religion they MUST study. I explained the rationale for why the religions that MUST be taught are the ones selected – and that only the most mischievous Ofsted inspector (e.g. one who insists that nothing can be done unless it's done in complete conformity with the rule book) could fault what the school would prefer to do.

6.11.17: to County Hall, where Dave C. has kindly arranged for me to photocopy the notes/briefings prepared by the RE Conference workshop leaders.

8.11.17: a few last-minute matters re the RE Conference are sorted.

9.11.17: attend the RE Conference, Choppington Welfare Centre. Deliver workshops relating to Islam and facilitate discussions during the plenary, etc.

