

Recent contacts, etc. with schools, County Hall, etc.
(from 10.11.17 to 21.1.18). Phil André

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10.11.17, 14.11.17 and 16.11.17: various tidying up tasks relating to the RE Conference on 9.11.17 (e.g. thank-you emails to the workshop leaders, copies of workshop notes sent electronically to delegates unable to get them on the day itself, queries from delegates about factual matters associated with Islam, queries relating to SACRE membership - two teachers would like to join the SACRE, queries relating to possible CPD opportunities in schools, etc.).

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

17.11.17: discussions with the headteacher, Morpeth First, about visits to three/four houses of worship (a synagogue, a mosque, the ISKCON Centre, the Hindu Mandir).

17.11.17: a visit to the Hindu Mandir on 27.11.17 for Morpeth First is requested and confirmed with the pandit and arrangements for the visit are firmed up with the school.

17.11.17: discussions with Andrea about the September and January SACRE Newsletters.

17.11.17 and 20.12.17: A half day's RE CPD and its content confirmed for all teaching, etc. staff at Shanklea Primary on 8.1.18.

18.11.17: discussions with the RE subject lead, Hexham Middle, about arranging a visit to a synagogue.

20.11.17 and 25.11.17: emails to Cloud Singh and Harpal Singh to establish whether we can confirm the SACRE will have at least one Sikh representative going forward. Harpal confirms his willingness to continue as the Sikh representative.

20.11.17: the contact details for two houses of worship provided to the RE subject lead, Hexham Middle, so she can arrange visits for pupils.

20.11.17: discussions with Andrea about the next SACRE meeting's agenda.

21.11.17: discussions with the RE subject lead, Hareside Primary, about the content of the RE Agreed Syllabus and how best to mesh the statutory requirements of the syllabus with pre-existing and soon-to-be-adjusted in-house plans to confirm the statutory content is being addressed.

21.11.17 and 22.11.17: work begins on the 2016-17 SACRE Annual Report.

24.11.17: although Cloud Singh is unable to identify anyone who might wish to take over the role of Sikh representative on the SACRE, Harpal Singh has expressed a desire to remain our Sikh representative, so short- and medium-term, we are "covered" by someone who regularly visits our schools and lives in Northumberland.

26.11.17, 27.11.17, 29.11.17 and 4.12.17: text for the January 2018 SACRE Newsletter drafted.

27.11.17 and 28.11.17: discussions with the RE subject lead, XXXXXX Middle, about the amount of time required to adequately address the content of the RE Agreed Syllabus. The RE subject lead explains how RE is presently delivered in combination with PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) and CE (Citizenship Education), but only one lesson a week is devoted to the three subjects. The RE subject lead asked whether an Ofsted inspection team will be concerned about how RE is delivered and how much time is devoted to the subject - and how she can present a case to the senior leadership team requesting that more time be devoted to RE. Discussions in relation to the latter address not only meeting the requirements of the RE Agreed Syllabus, but the role RE can play in relation to SMSC (spiritual, moral, social and cultural) development and promoting the British values,

and challenging extremism and radicalisation (i.e. supporting the Prevent Agenda). I also highlight the emphasis now placed on pupil/student mental wellbeing and how RE can help in this respect.

27.11.17: escort all of Year 3 and about a dozen parents, Morpeth First, to Newcastle's Hindu Mandir where I tell them about Hinduism and explain what they can see in the puja/worship room. The pandit kindly invites everyone to remain while the arti ceremony takes place that closes the mandir in the morning. The invitation to stay is extended because we have behaved ourselves.

27.11.17 and 8.12.17: discussions with a SACRE member about the role of the SACRE and whether individual SACRE members might have the time/capacity to assume a more pro-active role to help share the SACRE workload. I indicate that the next SACRE meeting should provide an ideal opportunity for matters of this nature to be discussed.

28.11.17: discussions with two SACRE members about the RE Conference evaluation sheets kindly collated by colleagues in County Hall and circulated to every SACRE member.

29.11.17: minutes for the 15.11.17 SACRE meeting are examined on behalf of Andrea a few changes made for technical purposes.

14.12.17: text for the January 2018 SACRE Newsletter proof-read for the last time and forwarded to Dave C. for work to begin on its publication.

15.12.17: following receipt of an email from Paul Pettinger, the national co-ordinator for the Accord Award, an email is sent to about twenty schools/teachers in Northumberland to inspire some interest in applying for the 2018 Accord Award.

16.12.17: discussions with Dave C. about the Accord Award and schools that might consider applying for it in 2018. An update is also provided on progress made on drafting the 2016-17 SACRE Annual Report and data required to complete it.

20.12.17 and 21.12.17: further discussions with Dave C. about schools in the County that might consider applying for the 2018 Accord Award, and about data relating to exam outcomes in Summer 2017 (the latter to help complete the 2016-17 SACRE Annual Report).

21.12.17, 22.12.17, 5.1.18 and 12.1.18: copies of an A4 festivals' list sent to various childcare settings and first schools in the County.

22.12.17: discussions with the RE subject lead, Bothal Primary, about how to contact some of the workshop leaders who contributed to the RE Conference in November so advice can be provided by the workshop leaders about improving teaching and learning in relation to specific religions.

2.1.18: work continues on the 2016-17 SACRE Annual Report, with the emphasis on analysis of exam data relating to GCSE, AS Level and A Level.

8.1.18: a half-day CPD session for all teaching staff at Shanklea Primary about the content and changes associated with the "new" RE Agreed Syllabus; Teaching Christianity, with an emphasis on matters such as denominational diversity, the liturgical year, the Jesus of history and the Jesus of the Bible/Christian faith; and using key questions to revise the school's RE long-term plan.

16.1.18, 18.1.18 and 20.1.18: discussions with the RE subject lead, Collingwood School and Media Arts College, about how best to undertake RE assessment with special needs' pupils and students. Information about assessment in the RE Agreed Syllabus is forwarded, with additional advice about how to interpret its content for special needs' pupils and students.

18.1.18 and 19.1.18: discussions with Andrea and Dave C. about the agenda for the forthcoming SACRE meeting and the January SACRE Newsletter.

21.1.18: the 2016-17 SACRE Annual Report is checked for the last time and it and another document are forwarded to Andrea for the forthcoming SACRE meeting.