

Recent contacts, etc. with schools, County Hall, etc.
(from 3.3.18 to 28.5.18). Phil André

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3.3.18: discussions with the RE subject lead, Bothal Primary, about an article for the April or September SACRE Newsletter (an article about a visit to a house of worship).

6.3.18: discussions with SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on RE) members about the 7.3.18 SACRE meeting.

7.3.18: attend the SACRE meeting, County Hall.

8.3.18 and 9.3.18: engage in various tidying-up tasks as a result of the SACRE meeting on 7.3.18 (e.g. discuss matters arising from the SACRE meeting with SACRE members present and absent, discuss with Andrea one/two matters for which action is required, etc.).

12.3.18: discussions with Jo Cousin about the questions she had posed about SACRE's remit, etc., and the forthcoming development day in July to discuss in depth how SACRE can raise its profile/be even more pro-active than at present.

13.3.18: text for the April 2018 SACRE Newsletter drafted and/or edited. The draft text and a possible photo for the Newsletter are forwarded to Dave C. so the task of laying-out and printing the Newsletter can begin.

25.3.18: the PDF version of the April 2018 SACRE Newsletter proof-read for Dave C. and assurances given that the text matches the draft, etc.

25.3.18: discussions with the RE subject lead, Bothal Primary, about accessing a hard copy of the April SACRE Newsletter so it can be added to a portfolio celebrating the work the subject lead has undertaken in relation to RE.

26.3.18: minutes for the 7.3.18 SACRE meeting are examined on behalf of Andrea and a few changes made for technical purposes.

26.3.18 and 27.3.18 discussions with the head of RE, The Duchess High, about the requirements for the new RE GCSE exams. The head of RE is worried (as are other secondary RE teachers) that the emphasis on scriptural analysis and reduced opportunities to address topical ethical issues will undermine student enthusiasm for the subject. The head of RE has already written in a private capacity to leading UK political figures to express his misgivings, but with little success, and wanted to know if there were other ways that he could get his message across. Various people/agencies were identified to whom he could write (one with the help of Dave C.) - and I suggested that he might write an article expressing his concerns for the

September 2018 SACRE Newsletter (we very rarely receive articles that critically evaluate how RE must be taught).

29.3.18: discussions with a SACRE member about circulation of a briefing paper for the SACRE development day in July.

29.3.18: discussions with the RE subject lead, Seaton Sluice Middle, about whether visits to the mosque at South Shields are still possible (the school had an excellent such visit last academic year). I assured the RE subject lead that such visits were still possible - and that, if she had problems arranging mosque visits in the future, we now have a Muslim representative on the SACRE who can liaise between the school and a mosque.

29.3.18: discussions with Andrea about how best to disseminate the April 2018 SACRE Newsletter to SACRE members.

8.4.18 and 11.4.18: discussions with the RE subject lead, Bothal Primary about the forthcoming CPD (continuing professional development) session for all the staff (18.4.18) during which he and I will explain about the content of the RE Agreed Syllabus, the school's new RE long-term plan and how best to introduce Islam to pupils from Year 1 to Year 6.

17.4.18: a consultation with the headteacher and RE subject lead, Allendale Primary, about the school's RE long-term plan (which is very ambitious and exploits the content of the Agreed Syllabus rigorously), how the long-term plan can be redrafted so content is driven primarily by a key question for each programme of study (by utilising key questions, options for assessment become more obvious), how assessment is best undertaken (e.g. utilise a variety of assessment tools so the knowledge, skills and understanding of every pupil are more likely to be revealed) and how to teach Islam through story, festival and celebration and the Five Pillars/Iman.

On returning home, a parcel is sent to the school containing booklets with information about Muhammad, Islam's relationship to the other Abrahamic faiths, the Five Pillars, Iman, the differences/similarities between Sunni, Shia and Sufi Islam, etc. (so the teachers can learn more about Islam before they teach it to their pupils).

18.4.18: to Bothal Primary to lead a CPD twilight session with the RE subject lead. The focus of the CPD session is about the content of the Agreed Syllabus as it applies to Islam at Key Stages 1 and 2. Participants are given copies of the Islam units of work that apply to primary schools and, after information is shared about continuity, progression, resources and which year groups will take prime responsibility for what bits of knowledge, skills and understanding, teachers in each year group plan a sequence of lessons/programme of study about Islam. At the end of the session there is feedback and I disseminate some booklets with information about Muhammad, Islam's relationship to the other Abrahamic faiths, the Five Pillars, Iman, the differences/similarities between Sunni, Shia and Sufi Islam,

etc. (so the teachers can learn more about Islam before they teach it to their pupils).

20.4.18 and 23.4.18: discussions (via email) with staff at Bothal Primary about the content of their sequence of lessons/programme of study about Islam. Additionally, the suggestion is made to the RE subject lead that he consider writing an article for a forthcoming SACRE Newsletter in which he describes Bothal's on-going journey toward the provision of enhanced RE (because the RE subject lead/Bothal Primary is/are engaged in practice that can usefully enlighten practice elsewhere).

Early May: information forwarded to some Northumberland teachers and schools about the Jewish Living Experience exhibition at the United Hebrew Congregation (the exhibition is part of the "Together we are stronger" campaign).

24.5.18: discussions with two SACRE members about arrangements for the next SACRE meeting and the SACRE development day in July.

24.5.18: discussions with Andrea about the agenda for the next SACRE meeting and paperwork required for it.

28.5.18: paperwork for the next SACRE meeting drafted and forwarded to Andrea.