

Recent contacts, etc. with schools, County Hall, etc.
(from 28.5.19 to 5.11.19). Phil André

28.5.19: discussions with Dave C. about the NATRE-sponsored "Spirited Arts" 2019 Art and Poetry Competition, closing date for entries, 31.7.19. It is agreed all schools will be advised about the competition and encouraged to partake.

28.5.19: information forwarded to various teachers in Northumberland schools about the annual Understanding Humanism Teachers' Conference, 9.7.19, at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London, WC1R 4RL.

5.6.19: attend the SACRE meeting, County Hall.

6.6.19: various tidying-up tasks undertaken following the SACRE meeting: to clarify who can continue to fulfil their responsibilities as teacher union and "other" faith groups, to provide two SACRE members with information about the new PGCE RE/RS course at Sunderland University for secondary teachers, to summarise what was said/agreed for SACRE members unable to attend the 5.6.19 meeting, etc.

20.6.19, 22.6.19, 24.6.19, 1.7.19 and 15.7.19: text for the September 2019 SACRE Newsletter drafted.

21.6.19 and 24.6.19: discussions with the RE subject lead, Burnside Primary, about the provision of RE CPD in the academic year beginning September 2019. The emphasis will be on inspirational RE, especially for Years 5 and 6, as it applies to Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Sikhism.

2.7.19 and 4.7.19: discussions with the RE subject lead, Collingwood School and Media Arts College, about accessing websites with pre-existing lesson plans, the extent to which a special school must conform with the content of an agreed syllabus, teachers who might assume a mentoring role as RE provision in the school is remodelled and approaches to RE in Key Stage 4.

9.7.18 and 12.8.19: discussions with Andrea and Dave C. about SACRE members who in recent times have found it difficult/impossible to attend. We discuss options that allow us to recruit new members, given the constraints of the SACRE constitution.

16.7.19: meeting and discussions with Dave C. about SACRE, etc. tasks for the next 7/8 months, SACRE members who have found it difficult to attend meetings for the last year and what to do to replace the existing part-time RE consultant, who is retiring at the end of March 2020.

19.7.19 and 23.7.19: various documents drafted, edited or amended (a job description for the post of part-time RE consultant, the September 2019 SACRE Newsletter, an executive summary combining the data, etc. deriving from surveys about RE and collective worship in two local authorities, etc.).

26.7.19: minutes for the 5.6.19 SACRE meeting are examined on behalf of Andrea and a few changes made for technical purposes.

19.8.19: the draft copy of the September SACRE Newsletter checked for typographical errors, etc. and any problems shared with Dave C.

20.9.19, 3.10.19 and 5.10.19: discussions with the RE subject lead, Whittonstall First, about events linked to National Interfaith Week. Discussions initially focus on possible visits to a synagogue, mosque, gurdwara and mandir before branching out to consider other destinations reflecting diversity in religion and belief. This sorted, attention turns to extending the programme beyond the week itself with people willing to visit the school to engage in workshops with the pupils. It is agreed I will be one such visitor to discuss diversity/pluralism in Christianity.

8.10.19: discussions with Dave C. about the benefits of schools liaising with the North-East Sikh Service for visits to a gurdwara or assemblies, lessons and workshops in school.

31.10.19: discussions with Andrea about the agenda for the 13.11.19 SACRE meeting.

3.11.19: discussion with the head of Humanities, Collingwood School and Media Arts College, about a visit to school to confirm the direction RE is taking.

5.11.19: discussions with the RE subject lead, Morpeth First, about enriching teaching and learning about Hinduism with visits and visitors. It is agreed I will visit the school to assist with such enrichment.

5.11.19: papers for the 13.11.19 SACRE meeting firmed up and forwarded to Andrea for distribution to SACRE members.