

Notes from Wokingham Teacher Network 16.5.17

Welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions.

Wows and worries: some teachers were not using school emails so had not received their Discovery updates: AH has correct emails now and Discovery HQ has actioned. Showed hard copy and owls.

One teacher had received a really successful SIAMS inspection (St Paul's Junior School) and another (St Nicholas, Hurst) had been accepted for a Farmington Fellowship to research how children with an Autistic diagnosis can demonstrated the empathy aspects of RE. She asked for support with this- teachers were asked to contact her or speak to her at the end of the session if they had children they felt would benefit from working with her next year if she could come into their schools.

Went through updates

1. Some teachers were pleased to report that they had already had an email inviting them to the second places of worship trip. Others showed an interest in coming – gave the office email to request a place if any are available. Ones that had been on said how good it had been. Happy to know that there was a PowerPoint of each place of worship coming out using the photos. All said they would use it. Catherine Jinkerson has already got this and had used it in RE that afternoon!

2. Discussed the review of the locally agreed syllabus. All teachers happy to respond – general consensus in the room was that Islam should be included in Primary specifically as many teachers feel it is a KS3 thing pan-Berks so choose not to teach it or time doesn't allow. Asked the teachers to feed this back when they receive their email asking them about the syllabus and then the overall picture can be considered but they do need to answer the survey and say.

Teachers on the whole said they would like very little else to be changed as budgets tight and no budget for time to change all the planning. Those Discovery Schools wanted to be sure it would fit with the new 3<sup>rd</sup> edition as the syllabus is being rewritten after the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition has been. AH assured them that Discovery is a good fit to many locally agreed syllabi and no reason to believe that Pan Berks would change so much that it wouldn't continue to be so here.

4 teachers agreed to be part of the working party to receive emails about the new syllabus and review new content. Names/emails passed to Discovery HQ for JL.

3. Discussed Crossing the Bridges: We thanked Catherine for her hard work and she gave the updated report on it as she was hosting the meeting! All teachers very pleased it has been such a success. We revisited what the resources were for and how to use them as some RE leads wanted clarification.

4. Stephen Vegh then arrived and had prepared teaching and learning activities to trial. "Snowflakes" group discussion activity, sorting cards to decide whether or not a Jewish boy would be following Mitzvot, a photographic stimulus, an art based stimulus and an odd one out activity. Very warmly received by the teachers especially as they could all be adapted for Primary but would also allow open ended discussion and investigation and challenge for more able pupils. Would also be transferrable into other subject areas where this type of learning is encouraged. We thanked Stephen for his time and input – lots of inspiration to work with.

5. AH then ran an activity on using artefacts within enquiries: started with just the artefacts to look at and discuss and think about their uses, some further information to see if decisions were changed and then looked at how even within the same religion you could use these to ask children to name an odd one out e.g. that didn't tie with the current enquiry – linked to Crossing the Bridges and how you could specify certain points in a place of worship that would most closely show the concept/bridge you are considering.

6. AOB: Asked teachers what they would like to do next time and all said they would like to consider the old/new syllabus if any changes are available then. Although 4 teachers had said they would be on the email panel, all would be happy to consider content and contribute during the network.

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