

## Notes from Wokingham Teachers' Network: 16.5.18

- **How are we?**

Most are good. Some concern that Yr 6 are not getting any RE due to SATS and end of year activities. No real way around this. Suggested RE day – active and fun – might be the way forward. Quite a few new leaders. 12 attendees (17 signed up but it was also Yr 2 writing moderation meetings and SATS week so people probably were called away.)

Q: An executive head has asked an RE lead how she enhances the learning of children in the class who already follow the religion being studied e.g. you are teaching Islam to Muslim children (who may know more than the teacher, although this must not be assumed, or that their knowledge is accurate or mainstream). We had a good debate about this. We felt that sometimes it may be appropriate for children from the religion to tell others about their beliefs and practices and answer questions from their peers, which might raise aspects they had not considered before. She said she had said something like this and been told that wasn't a good enough answer. Another teacher said she had taught the Imam's child but the parents felt it was challenging enough that he was learning it from an educational perspective and being taught to question using the RE syllabus, which he would not do naturally from the believer's stance at his age. Any other comments gratefully received!

Maybe some guidance could be added to the online guidance accompanying the syllabus.

- **An update on the syllabus/Syllabus Launch**

Ran through the changes in Draft 6 – fact that it is more succinct, key questions, outcomes etc and deadline dates for feedback.

Quite a few of the teachers/schools do not already teach Islam although it transpired that this is mostly the infants who know that the juniors do. Suggested they all ensured they liaised with their feeder schools (or vice versa) to ensure syllabus coverage.

Like the fact that the actual syllabus is going to be so succinct. Would like to know when the guidance is coming (this was mostly new leaders who are very nervous about the change but we can cover the syllabus again in Subject Leaders' training).

Q: if a teacher cannot come to the launch, how will they receive the syllabus? One knows she cannot attend on that date. I said I was sure she would be able to download it but that SACRE would inform them of that when it was ready.

- **Islam – linking to some of the KS1&2 questions on the new syllabus:** teaching and learning ideas, resources, went through a KS1 possible question and also looked at some of the KS2 possible links and questions as well. Some felt they must improve their subject knowledge. Some questions about resources.

- **UPDATES:**

-Crossing the Bridges: new leaders very interested in this.

-RE Definitions, an online glossary

-Diversity of Religion and Belief Guidance/Docs: alerted to their existence and what covered within the documentation.

-Guidance on Ramadan from West Berks SACRE Muslim Community– talked through the document and particularly the comprehensive way it explains Ramadan from the aspects of different ages and communities: as well as support for teachers' addressing the issue it is also a great teaching resource!

- **AOB: Next time? Assessment?**

Teachers more concerned about resources for new syllabus if they have to change to Islam and haven't taught it before. Overwhelming request to look at resources in general and save assessment for later in the year. All agreed to bring their "3 of the best" resource tips/supplier/websites to the next meeting (Oct 4<sup>th</sup>) and AH will research and bring a list as well.

4 new leaders all want to attend New Subject Leaders' training in October. Have passed their details on to HQ. Powerpoint, documents and all resources will be emailed to all teachers present. Emails taken in line with GDPR regulations.