

Agenda Item 6

Notes from Subject Leaders' training and Subject Leaders' network 4th October 2018

Subject leaders' training covered the following:

14 attendees – mostly new or fairly new. A couple who were longer standing who wanted a refresher and one who had thought it was a training on the new syllabus. Her disappointment has been rectified by another meeting at her school – AH to go in 6th November to go through it with her.

Most concerns centred about how to boost the profile of the subject, what and how much needs to be recorded and assessment.

The agenda for the training was to cover their concerns, look at the ideal subject leaders' folder and how that can help to raise the profile through events, staff meetings, reporting to governors etc and then to spend some time going through the enquiry model in depth to ensure they understood the Ofsted recommended pedagogy for teaching RE in detail. We worked through a unit on the symbolism within the Christmas story so that they all had a relevant and timely unit and experience to take back into school. The new syllabus was discussed and the mapping document that David Rees had produced to show where existing Discovery RE units matched it was also demonstrated. (All but one school present uses Discovery RE).

Subject Leaders' Network

16 attended (including DH and CJ from SACRE – thank you).

Agenda:

1. Intros: any wows or worries?
2. National Updates
3. Farmington Report
4. Hub/Syllabus Update and request for support
5. Focus on Islam
6. AOB

Item 1: No real concerns or issues to note: most just eager to get on with new syllabus

Item 2: Updated the group on the CORE report, RE online facilities such as the newly updated “ask a believer” and the RE Definitions, and a request from AREIAC for great work or lessons to be submitted to their website.

Item 3: Julie Easton gave a presentation on her Farmington Fellowship report and project: all about helping autistic children reach the more empathetic and intrinsic targets in RE. She had found it a joy to put down teaching for 6 weeks and concentrate on her own professional development. She reported that the research had thrown up interesting ideas which affected all children due to their emotional development. Theory of Mind had a large impact on her studies and shows that creative

teaching is very necessary to enable all children to access the less factual aspects of RE. She shared that giving the children alternate points of view to discuss and evaluate really helped as they could then agree or disagree and support their arguments when previously they might have struggled to come up with their own ideas.

She shared that the assessment levels for the empathetic levels for RE were really important because it may not be that autistic children can't access it, it is more like that they can't access it YET. Thinking time is really important and helps them achieve these expectations. She finished by saying that details really matter to these children such as timetabling within a lesson and that they also like to read out loud to process their thoughts so be creative in allowing them to do this.

Item 4: Updated the group on the Hub chairs and potential actions for the future and made them aware that a request for help and support will be coming from Ann Andrews. This group more than happy to work on this within our networks too- see below.

Item 5: At the request of the teachers in the previous network, we looked at a number of questions from the syllabus and matched them to Islamic units previously available. We looked at the guidance from the old syllabus and whether that would answer the question or needed changing, then we looked at any new resources and the nearest Discovery RE unit to the question. Teachers worked in groups on KS1 or KS2 and completed a proforma based on the question. This will be kept by AH and passed to DR for the Hub guidance revision. DR is also doing the same activity with Reading and AH with West Berks teachers.

AOB: We discussed what teachers would like to cover in the next meeting and all felt the same activity on Sikhism would be useful.

Meeting finished at 5.30pm