

Local Updates to Wokingham SACRE Autumn 2019

Primary Teachers' Networks

Since our last meeting in June, there have been two primary network meetings. Both meetings have been well attended and have received consistently positive feedback from attendees. The ethos of meetings continues to be positive, enthusiastic and supportive, with teachers of greatly varying experience attending. Each meeting begins with an open discussion of successes and concerns, teachers are briefed with national and local updates relevant to the primary context and given the opportunity to discuss matters arising. With teachers having completed work on the appendices for the new syllabus, there is now a section (of 45 minutes to an hour) each meeting focused on training teachers and supplying them with practical ideas and resources for RE. The focus for the training aspect of the following network meeting is decided upon democratically by the teachers in attendance.

The Summer 2019 meeting took place on 11th June at Nine Mile Road Primary School from 4:00 to 5:30. There were 13 teachers in attendance. During this meeting there was an introduction to Angela Hill, the new RE Adviser and introductions among the group accordingly. The training focus was on developing philosophical thinking and dialogue in primary RE. Some teachers experienced problems with parking and access to the school. It was agreed that the next meeting would be held at All Saints C of E School, kindly hosted by Paige Jordan.

The Autumn 2019 meeting took place on 15th October at All Saints C of E Primary School. The meeting was attended by 15 teachers. As agreed in the previous meeting, the training focus was on assessment in primary RE. Teachers were given practical ideas and resources to enable them to assess pupils' work meaningfully and effectively within the constraints of curriculum time afforded to RE and workload demands.

The Spring Term meeting will also take place at All Saints and the training focus agreed was dealing with RE within the new framework for inspection. It was agreed that Tuesdays are best for these meetings and Paige Jordan at All Saints is kindly arranging a date in the Spring term.

Subject Leader Training

Subject leader training was held at the Wokingham Council Offices on 15th October, in partnership with Bracknell Forest. Although only 5 teachers attended, this may have been due to a technical glitch on the county booking system. Nevertheless, it was a productive afternoon and teachers new to the role and one returning to the role after several years with a different remit, fed back positively, reporting that they felt increased confidence to undertake the role and were given some essential resources and ideas with which to proceed.

Pan Berkshire Hub

The Westhill Project

The Pan-Berkshire Hub, having won the Westhill funding award, are continuing to work on the 'Real People: Real Faith' series of films for RE classrooms in which teachers and pupils engage in discussion with faith leaders in places of worship. The work is taking place with primary and secondary schools in the area. Anne Andrews is still looking for venue suggestions for a spring session of the project. She says, "it would be good if the venue could be a Mosque, a Gurdwara, a Mandir or a Catholic church. Could those of you who attend any of these places of worship please find out if the venue would be available for use for the filming project in the spring? The Pan Berks SACRE Hub would like a selection of venues to choose from." Please email Anne at anne.andrews@oxford.anglican.org if you have any suggestions. Teachers at the primary network and subject leader training were asked to get in touch with Anne should they be able to help out.

The first filming session, in a synagogue, took place on 23rd October. Anne reports that they worked with a professional film maker, Jerry Curd, and the synagogue had organised 4 members to be available to answer the questions put to them by the three teachers one each from KS1, KS2 and KS3. A series of interviews was staged. We kept the focus to two questions from the syllabus per key stage and at least two people were asked the same range of questions, so that a variety of answers have been recorded.

Anne says: "The quality of the debate and the answers given was really high and I am sure that we have the start of a very useful, effective and thought-provoking resource."

The next Hub meeting will take place on 27th November at 16:15 and there may be some initial footage from the filming shown at the meeting.

Crossing the Bridges

A special thanks to Catherine Jinkerson who is continuing to update and expand the Crossing the Bridges directory and well as encouraging schools and representatives from faith communities to work together to enable children to experience a wide variety of assemblies.

NATRE Regional Ambassadors

A reminder that the National and Regional RE Ambassadors are continuing to work to support and connect teachers of RE. More details here: www.natre.org.uk/news/latest-news/regional-ambassadors-announced/

Our regional ambassador is Sarah Payne, subject leader for RE and PSHCE at Woodland Middle School in Flitwick, Bedfordshire. You can follow her on Twitter on @SPayneRE

Join her Regional Facebook Group here: RE Teachers in South Central

You can also email her: sarah@natre.org.uk