A Happy New Year and Welcome to this latest edition of the RE newsletter.

Join SACRE and make a difference

The Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) is looking for new members. SACRE is a statutory body that monitors and makes decisions on Religious Education in Cambridgeshire and meets three times a year at Shire Hall Cambridge. They are looking for new members to join from schools and faith communities. If you are interested in finding out more or coming along to our next meeting on the 6th February please contact Laura Corcoran at laura.corcoran@peterborough.gov.uk.

Staying connected

If you would like to be directly contacted about training and events organised by the Cambridgeshire RE advisory service or SACRE then please send your contact details to: laura.corcoran@peterborough.gov.uk who will add you to the mailing list.

Assessment for Primary Schools and the New Syllabus

All primary schools should be using the assessment criteria and statements that are in the new syllabus as SACRE will be asking for end of Key Stage 1 and 2 data. A request will be made the week beginning 10th June 2019 and each school will be asked for the number of children working towards, working at and working above. The new curriculum can be accessed via the link for the new syllabus below.


Statutory Requirements for RE

We would like to remind all schools of their statutory duty regarding RE and the school curriculum. RE is an important curriculum subject. It is important in its own right and also makes a unique contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils and supports wider community cohesion. The Government is keen to ensure all pupils receive high-quality RE. Although there is not a National Curriculum for RE, all maintained schools must follow the National Curriculum requirements to teach a broad and balanced curriculum, which includes RE. All maintained schools therefore have a statutory duty to teach RE. Academies and free schools are contractually required, through the terms of their funding agreement, to make provision for the teaching of RE.

Further details can be found on the following websites;

http://www.natre.org.uk/about-re/legalrequirements/


Training

There will be a training workshop on Assessment and the New Agreed Syllabus in the Primary School on the 7th March 2019 from 9.00am until 12.30pm at Buckden Village Hall. In religious education, just as in other subjects of the curriculum, it is important to let pupils know how they are doing and what they must do next to make progress. As well as knowledge and skills, it is a
key part of religious education that pupils’ positive attitudes to study should be encouraged and praised. This session will look at how to use assessment effectively in the classroom and to consider different approaches and opportunities to assess in RE. There will also be an opportunity to explore the new assessment tool that has been created as part of the new Agreed Syllabus.

Please book your place here; https://www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/religious-education/

Network Meetings

Network meetings return this term and the emphasis will be adding challenge to RE in the primary classroom for all learners.

Thursday 28th February 4:00pm – 5:30pm: Houghton Primary School, Chapel Lane, Houghton, Huntingdon, PE28 2AY

Wednesday 6th March 4.00pm-5.30pm: William de Yaxley CoFE Academy, Landsdowne Road, Yaxley, PE7 3JL

Wednesday 13th March 4.00pm-5.30pm: Mayfield Primary School, Warwick Road, Cambridge, CB4 3HN

Thursday 14th March 4:00pm-5:30pm: Peterborough Education Conference Centre, 1st Floor Central Library, Broadway, Peterborough, PE1 1RX

Please book your place here; https://www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/religious-education/

Help needed with a project

The recently adopted syllabus requires schools to engage with a wider range of faiths and world views than previously. The members of the Standing Advisory Council on RE in Cambridgeshire (SACRE) are aware that schools in the more remote areas of the county such as Fenland may struggle to access people and buildings from different faiths and beliefs. SACRE is currently putting together a bid for funding to help address this situation but needs some help with information from the schools in these areas. If you are interested in helping and possibly being one of the pilot schools, please contact Amanda Fitton at amanda.fitton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Consultancies, CPD and Inset Training

The RE adviser Amanda Fitton is available for consultancies, CPD and inset training to all schools in the county. These are priced at £100 per hour (+VAT where necessary). If you feel that your school would benefit from this service please contact Amanda using the contact details below. amanda.fitton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Other events and news items

Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day is on the 27th January 2019. Please see below for links to events and how your school can take part.

https://www.hmd.org.uk/take-part-in-holocaust-memorial-day/

https://www.holocaust.org.uk/Event/ holocaust-memorial-day-2019

Pathway through Religions

Cambridgeshire CC have been involved in a joint European Project supported and funded by the European Union. There is now a very good website called Pathways through Religion that allows teachers and students to explore different religions across Europe and to help promote a sense of mutual awareness. Please see the link below;

https://pathwaythroughreligion.s.pixel-online.org/

Vellore

KS2 teachers who are undertaking the unit on “Being a Christian in Vellore” can now find all the materials for the unit online at http://www.vellorecambridgeshirelink.org/. The Diocese of Vellore is the international link for all Cambridgeshire churches (through Cambridgeshire Ecumenical Council) which means that there are several people around who have been to Vellore and are happy to come and talk in schools - use the contacts page of this website if you would like a visitor.

At the moment elections are underway in the Diocese for a new bishop, as Bishop Rajavelu is about to retire. A group from Cambridgeshire will be visiting Vellore this summer to meet the new bishop, and also to gather information and photographs to update and enhance the schools’ materials on the website ready for next academic year. If you have any suggestions for materials you would like to see to support your work in the classroom please let the group know, using the contacts page on the website.