

REFocus Issue 12 February 2024

News:

Ofsted Annual Report 2022-23

Ofsted has published its annual report 2022-23 and it has some uncomfortable reading for all those involved in RE. Remember, this is not the RE Subject Report itself, which we are expecting imminently. I have attached an [annotated version of the curriculum section](#) of this report as it has some useful indication of Ofsted's approach across the whole curriculum. I hope that the comments and highlights will be helpful to you as RE leads and co-ordinators and also for you to share with school leaders and governors. In particular, the emphasis on the importance of staff CPD and subject knowledge in providing a rich curriculum for pupils.

The National Content Standard

The RE Council of England and Wales has produced a document to try to ensure that any Agreed Syllabus or equivalent used by Multi-Academy Trusts reaches a required standard to ensure that the RE curriculum planned in all schools is sufficiently robust, so that pupils in all schools receive their entitlement to high quality religious education. [The National Content Standard](#) does not specify what content must be studied, but rather sets a standard for the rigour and quality of curriculum provision. **It is designed for those who are referred to as 'curriculum publishers' in the RE section of the Ofsted Annual Report attached above (in other words, Agreed Syllabus Conferences, MAT Leads and Diocesan teams, not for subject leaders in individual schools, though it may be of interest to you all. It has very useful appendices!**

Resources:

To access a document that will help both leaders and teachers of RE click [here](#).

Support:

Draft material for Agreed Syllabus Support

[This](#) will help leaders and teachers understand the Worldviews Approach enquiry process of the new agreed syllabus. For any advice, questions or requests for further training, contact Bill Moore (bjvmoore@justbmoore.com)

Support for schools in the current situation in Israel/Gaza

Many Local Authorities and SACREs have shared guidance and support to schools given the current crisis and the impact it is having globally and in the UK. This additional support from [Middle East Education](#) might also prove helpful. You can also look at [Solutions not Sides](#) and [The Linking Network](#).

We all need to work together to support our children to live well together.

RE Hub



As mentioned in the last newsletter the RE Hub is up and running and being added to on a weekly basis. There is a wide range of support, links and resource available [here](#) and particularly an important section on CPD (called 'upskill') [here](#).

Archbishops' Young Leaders Award

Started by the previous Archbishop of York, John Sentamu, this initiative provides an opportunity for pupils in primary and secondary schools, from any faith or none, to develop skills and attitudes to contribute to improving communities and society. The promotional video concludes with the statement: "Help us to empower young people to be the change they want to see." To find out more and consider whether this might be something your school could be interested in, see their website: <https://www.archbishopofyorkyouthtrust.co.uk/>



Three resources for Christianity:

- 1) The Gideons have rebranded as 'Good News UK' and offer great free resources to schools and visitors. <https://goodnewsuk.com/bibles-for/education>
- 2) 'Prayer spaces in schools' offer people and resources so schools can develop spaces for prayer and reflection. Link here: <https://prayerspacesinschools.com/nations/uk-ireland/>
- 3) The Bible Society's 'Open the book' Christian story assemblies and RE offered across Oxfordshire. Link here for schools to discover local assembly support <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved/open-the-book/get-started/find-an-otb-church/>

STOP PRESS – twilight networks 2024

Oxfordshire SACRE will be running two stand alone, free on-line **twilight networks** this term for Primary leaders of RE, and two **online briefings** for Primary Headteachers. We will be running a further two for Primary leads next term and one for Secondary RE leaders and teachers.

Primary Headteachers: Friday 1st March, 11.00-12.00; Weds 13th March, 14.00-15.00

Primary leaders: Tues 19th and Mon 25th March 16.00-17.00

Primary leaders: Tues 25th and Weds 26th June 16.00-17.00

Secondary: Tues 2nd July 16.00-17.00

Full details and how to sign up to follow shortly.

And don't forget about RE Quality Mark

REQM is a highly prized validation of quality RE in a school and ranges from Bronze – Silver – Gold. However, it is not necessary to go for the accreditation! Simply using the criteria within your own school is a hugely useful RE improvement tool.

For more information and how to apply, <https://www.reqm.org/reqm-awards/how-to-apply/> SACRE is keen to promote REQM as a means to help improve RE not just in those schools that apply but also through them to support other schools across the county. If you are interested, please do apply and if possible contact Bill Moore (bjvmoore@justbmoore.com) so that SACRE can celebrate and share your achievement.



General support



<https://www.natre.org.uk/>



<https://www.reonline.org.uk/>

REOnline also provides a [Festivals Calendar](#)

School visits and visitors

Have you taken your pupils on a trip to visit a place of worship? Or invited in a visitor to share their faith, beliefs and/or way of living? These visits and visitors add a rich and stimulating dimension to the learning experience we provide to pupils. Encounter with different individuals, communities, cultures and beliefs helps to engage pupils in their learning and provokes deep thinking and questioning.

If you have had a particularly good experience of either visits or visitors and would be willing to share these with others, please let SACRE know through Bill, and we can include these in future newsletters.

We will also publish places recommended by SACRE members.

And Finally

Did your school do anything for Holocaust Memorial Day this year? Or for World Religions Day? Did you attend this year's Strictly RE conference? Are you applying for a Farmington Scholarship this year?

If you have any school RE news, announcements, questions or suggestions for the next REFocus (April 2024) please email me and I will include what I can.

Have you joined the OxonBucksRE local Facebook group? If not, you can do so by clicking [here](#).

All the best for the remainder of term!

Bill Moore (Adviser to SACRE)

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Please contact me if you would like any in-school training and support for you and your staff.