

RE@Herts

Hertfordshire SACRE News

Issue 1. November 2020

Hertfordshire SACRE is pleased to welcome you to the first issue of RE@Herts!

This will be a termly newsletter providing information for schools and teachers on matters to do with religion, worldviews and Religious Education. There will be brief bulletins with links where necessary to more detailed articles, websites or information, both locally and nationally.

We also want to provide the **opportunity for you to share** the work you are doing, any news you have and resources or contacts that have helped you to enhance the RE in your school.

SACRE stands for Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education and comprises four groups: Other denominations and Faiths; The Church of England; Teacher Associations; and the Local Authority, plus co-opted members. As such, it brings together people who are committed to good RE in our schools. SACRE is a statutory

group made up of volunteers.

You can find out more about what SACRE does on the Herts GfL, [here](#).

Hertfordshire
SACRE
Enhancing collective worship and RE

Hello!

*I am Cllr Mark Watkin,
Chair of SACRE*



I am proud to be able to chair Hertfordshire's SACRE. We live in times of great division and mistrust founded so often on ignorance and "fake news". Never has it been more important that our children and young people learn about faith and learn to respect and understand people of different faiths and of none. SACRE is there to support all schools and RE teachers in delivering the RE curriculum which is so much more than understanding Christianity. The support it receives from our local authority, of which I am a member, is key to its' success.

Review of the agreed syllabus



As many of you will be aware, we review our Locally Agreed Syllabus every five years. To take account of the impact of Covid-19, we have extended the current syllabus by a year and the new syllabus will start from **Sept 2023**.

- The review will begin in the Summer Term of 2021 with a questionnaire
- In Autumn 2021 we will run focus groups, more than likely held remotely.
- We will be looking for interested teachers to contribute to the whole process of developing the new syllabus, which will take on board the many significant developments in RE over the last three years.

Watch this space!



Holocaust Memorial Day

27th Jan 2021

'Be the light in the darkness'

Herts SACRE has a long tradition of supporting HMD. **This year, we are running a competition for schools**, with prizes for individual pupils and the school with the over-all Key Stage winner. This will be open to UKS2 and KS3 pupils. Entries on the theme of 'Be the light in the darkness' can be in the form of poetry or art.

If you are interested, please contact our adviser, Bill Moore bjvmoore@aol.com for more details.

The deadline for entries is Friday 12th Feb 2021.

The link below provides in depth guidance on planning HMD activities in school, survivor's life stories, resource materials, films, art, poetry, etc. and further links to school resources.

<https://www.hmd.org.uk/what-is-holocaust-memorial-day/this-years-theme/>

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

For schools that wish to access more detailed training and resources, the Holocaust Education Trust is excellent. A programme for 2020-21 can be accessed at:

https://www.het.org.uk/images/Ed_Programme/Educational_Programme_2020-21.pdf

Holocaust Educational Trust aims to educate young people from every background about the Holocaust and the important lessons to be learned for today. The Trust works in schools, universities and in the community to raise awareness and understanding of the Holocaust, providing outstanding teacher training, an outreach programme for schools, high quality teaching aids and resource materials.

Our SACRE Jewish representative, Ellie Olmer ([right](#)), is an educator for HET as well as a teacher in Hertfordshire.



Local Networks



Networking with other teachers is a great way to share good practice, challenges and new ideas; even

during the Covid-19 pandemic we can continue to do this.

We have a number of local groups across Hertfordshire some of which have been meeting virtually since last April. This term the groups in St Albans, Watford and Tring have met, but whilst on-line it doesn't matter where you are in Herts – you can still join in! The groups are affiliated to NATRE (The National Association of Teachers of RE) which is the subject association for RE teachers. Through affiliation, the groups can access high quality resources to support their teaching and learning.

If you'd like to join one of these groups please contact Juliet Lyal via stalbansreteacherstogether1@gmail.com or go to the NATRE website www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/re-in-your-region/south-central and scroll down to Hertfordshire.

The next meeting of St Albans RE Teachers Together (SARETT) is **November 24th** via zoom from **4.15pm – 5.15pm**.

If you'd like to attend this meeting, please email Juliet on the email address above and she will send you the link.

Even if you can't attend a meeting, do have a look at the NATRE website – there is so much there for you including some free resources!

Juliet Lyal, Herts SACRE and Independent RE Consultant
stalbansreteacherstogether1@gmail.com

Juliet Lyal – co-opted member of Herts SACRE

I have been a member of Herts SACRE for over 10 years and was on the writing team of the last two Agreed Syllabuses. As a primary teacher, I have been able to support Hertfordshire teachers and to support the non-teaching members of SACRE in their understanding of RE. My roles on the NATRE Executive, as primary vice-chair until 2018 and Local Groups officer until March 2020 and as a Commissioner of RE from 2016-18, help me to keep Herts SACRE up to date with national events, decisions and data. I really value this.



The Whisper Project

(Welwyn Hatfield Interfaith Schools Peace Education Resources)

This group is in Welwyn and Hatfield and provides faith visitors from many different faiths who can share their personal experience in the classroom and answer children's questions.

Because of Covid, Wendy, who co-ordinates the project, is exploring video clips from local faith visitors which could be shown in class. Pupils can send questions for the visitor in advance, and some visitors could interact virtually with zoom. If you think either approach could be of benefit in your RE, please contact Wendy.lidgate@outlook.com

Herts SACRE believes these teacher networks have a vital role to play in supporting schools, sharing good practice and ideas, and improving RE in all schools. We hope to work with you to build on the excellent work and networking. Please contact Juliet with any news and links that can be included in future newsletters.

SACRE support for schools to apply for REQM

For this year only, SACRE is able to contribute £200 towards a school applying for the RE Quality Mark.

This is limited to the **first ten schools** to apply and applications must be in by **1st March 2021**.

REQM is a highly prized validation of quality RE in a school and ranges from Bronze – Silver – Gold.

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 contact Bill Moore bjvmoore@aol.com.



You can now access over 1000 articles on this searchable, indexed website, making it easier for you and your colleagues to find inspiring, practical RE lesson ideas and more.

Juliet Whitehead: LA Officer



My name is Juliet Whitehead and I work for Hertfordshire County Council as part of the Education Leadership Team. Since June 2019, I have been the LA Officer to SACRE. I knew very little about SACRE when I started so it has been a steep but enjoyable learning curve! I very much value the important work that SACRE does particularly with the Locally Agreed Syllabus. My role is to act as a conduit between SACRE and the LA and Herts for Learning who provide the clerking and administrative support.

Developing RE:

Resources and CPD opportunities



Strictly @ Home 2021

The annual NATRE teachers' conference this year will be held online over 2 days on Sat 30th and Sun 31st Jan. Details and joining can be accessed [here](#).

NATRE has also produced some useful anti-racist materials for RE, which can be accessed [here](#).

RE Today has launched a brand new website the [REtoday Magazine Library](#), which is an archive of articles from the popular REtoday magazine.

Farmington Fellowships

The application for Farmington Fellowships has opened. These are absolutely brilliant CPD opportunities for RE teachers. (I sit here typing this totally regretting that I didn't apply whereas my sister did – not jealous at all!!) For more information and how to apply, go to: <http://www.farmington.ac.uk/index.php/farmington-scholarships/>

(closing date 31/1/21)



School speakers and support from Humanists UK are available for primary and secondary schools, including the resource 'Understanding Humanism'. They are offering online 'visits' whilst the Covid-19 pandemic prevails. All this is provided for free. This will help to support the agreed syllabus and also recognise the importance of non-religious worldviews. Please click [here](#) to access the information.

RE:Online offers excellent resources,



RE:ONLINE
THE PLACE FOR EXCELLENCE

CPD and courses for teachers at all stages in their careers. If you have not already

done so, it is well worth visiting <https://www.reonline.org.uk/> for knowledge, leadership and CPD.

In particular, they offer specific tutored courses (<https://www.teachre.co.uk/tutored-modules/>)

And for those of you who want to expand your leadership skills beyond one school, supporting other schools in a network or a MAT, see their leadership programme

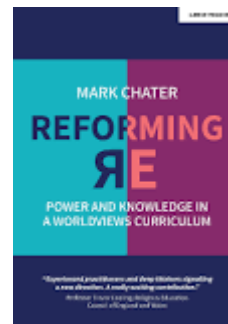
<https://www.reonline.org.uk/leading-re/equipping-and-building-a-community-of-leaders-for-change/>

They will be recruiting over the Spring Term.

A Good Read

Reforming RE

Mark Chater (Ed) John Catt Education 2020



For those of you who want to keep up-to-date with the thinking about RE and Worldviews in the wake of the Commission on RE Report [*Religion and Worldviews: the way forward*](#), this recent book edited by Mark Chater with

contributions from academics, teachers and consultants provides a provocative collection of policy, ideas and practice. It certainly stimulates thinking! There is also a blogspace which you can access [here](#). Is this the way forward for RE?

And Finally

If you have any school RE news, announcements, questions or suggestions for the next RE@Herts (Feb 2021) please email me and I will include what I can.

Wishing you all the very best for the rest of this term and the Christmas Holiday, on behalf of all of SACRE,

Bill Moore

(Adviser to SACRE)

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