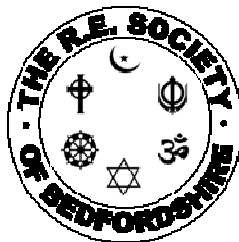


# FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE R.E. CO-ORDINATOR

**Chairman: Robin Rice**  
(01234 711801)



**Treasurer: Mrs Julie Benson**  
(01525 860479)

Issue 19

Spring 2010

## NEWS UPDATE



Preparations are well under way for a month long celebration of religious education across England and Wales in March 2011. Schools and colleges, faith and belief communities, local communities, museums and libraries are invited to plan activities to celebrate the unique contribution of RE to the education of children and young people. The website [www.celebratingre.org](http://www.celebratingre.org) will be launched in late February.

### **A strategic moment for RE – new documents**

A new primary curriculum, new DCSF guidance on RE, and a promise of more dialogue and development ...

On the last day of January, new documents of great importance to RE were published on line:

The new RE Guidance, 'RE in English Schools: non-statutory guidance 2010', is from DCSF ministers. It replaces the RE elements of Circular 1/94 with immediate effect.

<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/teachingandlearning/subjects/re/guidance>

The new primary curriculum, including the three aims, essentials for learning and life, and programmes of learning including an illustrative, non-statutory programme for RE, can be found at <http://curriculum.qcda.gov.uk/new-primary-curriculum/> the new primary curriculum will be taught in schools from September 2011.

Both documents will be of major strategic importance to the efforts we make together to improve standards in RE over the next few years. They represent

considerable milestones for RE. In particular, these documents are central to SACRE work on agreed syllabuses and to schools designing their curriculum.

Further guidance on implementing the new primary curriculum will be out on 29 March and this also will include RE.

An open letter from Diana Johnson MP, minister of state at the DCSF, to the Chair of the RE Council, reassures stakeholders that decisions on RE remain local, and that dialogue will continue on the development of RE. Go to:

<http://www.religiouseducationcouncil.org/images/stories/pdf/letterschoolsminister.pdf>

In addition a large report from Warwick University on RE resources can be found at <http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/default.aspx?PageFunction=productdetails&PageMode=publications&ProductId=DCSF-RR197&>

### **Recommendations from the report for schools and teachers**

1. Senior management in schools should support CPD programmes in religious education, both for specialist and non-specialist teachers.
2. Schools should recognise, in their policy, practice and self assessment, that an increase in knowledge about different religions and greater understanding of people's religious practice and motivations constitute an important part of education in relation to community cohesion.
3. RE teachers need, where possible, to cross-check the content and provenance of the materials (including websites) with high quality advice from specialists in

the religions (including their publications) and authorities from the religious traditions being represented.

4. Given that many materials focus more on the practice, histories and moral teachings of religions. RE teachers should ensure that pupils also learn about their spiritual and theological elements in order to ensure a deeper understanding.

5. RE teachers should be aware of the presence of minority, and sometimes hidden, religious positions within their classes (for example, evangelical Christians, those without a religion and those attached to religions beyond those focused on in the present study) and ensure, through the inclusion of their perspectives in activities and RE materials, that the students who hold them do not feel marginalised or uncomfortable in their identity.

6. School leaders and RE teachers should develop community partnerships between the school and local faith communities, particularly those with an orientation towards social action, so that pupils can learn about the role of religions in society and themselves engage in partnerships for the common good.

### **Assessment of Pupil Progress in RE**

RE secondary practitioners and consultants have worked with QCDA to exemplify standards in RE based on the Framework's eight-level scale. Thanks to their hard work, a set of assessment focuses is now in draft form.

The focuses fully reflect the eight-level scale; they bring together 'learning about' and 'learning from' opportunities, assessing them together. These are being trialled in some secondary schools and we look forward to the uploading of pupil work, teacher comments and the confirmed focuses in 2010.

All this work will be non-statutory and will exemplify standards as a service to writers and users of locally agreed syllabuses.

### **Bicentenary of the National Society – Celebrations for Church of England Schools**

In 2011 there will be national celebrations to mark the two hundredth anniversary of the founding of the 'National Society for the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church'... today widely known simply as the National Society.

### **Church schools may wish to plan a local celebration using old record books and artefacts from the school.**

The National Society was founded in 1811 with a vision to educate the largest possible number of young people from all backgrounds based on the Christian Gospel as understood by the Church of England. This pioneering vision was brought into reality through a huge programme of building, staffing and equipping new schools – fifty years before the State provided free education.

### **FACE TO FAITH PROGRAMME**

Face to Faith is a global schools programme which connects 11-16 year olds of different faiths and none through video conferencing technology, allowing students to learn directly with, from and about each other. Since its launch in summer 2009, Face to Faith has grown rapidly and now operates in 12 countries: India, Pakistan, Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, Jordan, Palestinian Territories, Lebanon, Australia, UK, US and Canada. Video conferences have already taken place between students in Jordan and the Palestinian Territories, Singapore and the US and within India.

For further information:

[www.tonyblairfaithfoundation.org/pages/schools](http://www.tonyblairfaithfoundation.org/pages/schools)

### **RE Today**

#### **The 2010 Resources catalogue is now available.**

Alongside a range of their own publications there is a selection of publications from other publishers which they are featuring for the first time.

#### **Resources to look out for include:**

- **Questions in RE: Islam**
- **Picturing Jesus: Fresh Ideas**
- **Tackling Tough Questions**
- **The Life of the Buddha DVD** (Clear Vision)

#### **Art in Heaven Competition 2010**

This competition is open to all pupils aged 4-19.

There are five themes, and guidance is provided on each for teacher and pupil:

- **Mystery Stories**
- **Spiritual Space**
- **Respect: a logo for RE**
- **Celebrating Life Celebrating Love**

- Talking to God: Where is God?

For 2010, there are special categories for digital video and for group entries.

They especially welcome entries from 16-19 students in FE colleges and sixth forms. There will be some special prizes for 16-19 work this year.

Details of the competition can be found on the link below. Deadline is 31 July 2010.

If you are looking for inspiration, do have a look at the 2009 winners - now available on the Spirited Arts Web Gallery.

[www.natre.org.uk/spiritedarts](http://www.natre.org.uk/spiritedarts)

## Science and Religion in Schools

**Date:** 26 – 28 March 2010

**Venue:** Westminster College, Cambridge

This short weekend course by The Faraday Institute is for busy teachers, whether in the sciences, philosophy or RE. It will give informed input by highly qualified experts on some of the latest thinking in the science-religion area and provide information about resources available to teachers, as well as tackling some of the thorny issues arising in the classroom.

**Speakers include:** Dr. Denis Alexander; Mr. David Allard; Prof. John Bryant; Revd. Dr. Rodney Holder; Revd. Dr. John Polkinghorne and Prof. Bob White FRS. For more details including bursaries and discounts, see:

[www.faraday-institute.org](http://www.faraday-institute.org)

## Conferences for KS4 & Sixth form

Damaris is currently offering three interactive conferences for 14 – 19s which fit in well with the curriculum for this age group. These are:

- **Ethics in an age of science:** exploring ethical issues raised by developments in science
- **That's a good argument:** applying critical thinking skills to contemporary issues
- **President for a Day experience:** exploring global citizenship issues.

Conferences are geared to run between 2.5 and 3.5 hours (plus breaks) for 50 – 300 students.

**To find out more** check out their website or contact Damaris direct to talk over your requirements.

[www.damaris.org/schools/conferences](http://www.damaris.org/schools/conferences)  
[office@damaris.org](mailto:office@damaris.org)

Tel: 023 8068 2750

## A Reminder from Carrie Traill

Hello all

I would just like to remind everyone that the next Bedford Borough RE PSG meeting for Middle schools is meeting on 17th March at 2pm till 4pm over at the Conference and Development Centre at Priory Business Park. Everyone is welcome and the meeting is completely free.

This session will be lead by Kathryn Wright from NATRE with the focus of KS3 and assessment.

If you would like further details of this session, our PSG group or RE support in general then please feel free to contact me on the details below.

Kind regards  
Carrie

01234 836131  
[carrie.traill@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:carrie.traill@bedford.gov.uk)

## Holocaust Memorial Day

Students from Middle and Upper schools across Bedfordshire came together to remember the Holocaust and other genocides through drama, music, poetry and readings at Redborne Upper School Ampthill. The event was attended by the High Sheriff of Bedfordshire, elected members, local clergy and parents and was recorded by Three Counties Radio.





**Remember! RE Resources can be found at: [www.beds-re-resources.org.uk/](http://www.beds-re-resources.org.uk/)**

### ISRAEL - February 2010

**Look out for more about our multi-faith trip to Israel in the next Newsletter!**

Comments so far:

"The Sea of Galilee and all we saw and did on the first two days has made the most impression on me. On a



personal level too it was where I felt most at peace with myself"



"A once in a lifetime experience, which was a massive sensory overload. The richness and depth in historical and religious knowledge was awe-inspiring and the variation in tasks was stimulating and engaging because there was something to cater for every palette!"

Highly recommended...I'm going to start saving now, so I can go back as soon as possible!"

"I can honestly say that the tour far exceeded my already high expectations. There was just so much packed into it and our fascinating tour guide led us with such skill and sensitivity. The most thrilling experience for me was seeing the whole area by the Western wall for the first time and feeling the spiritually charged atmosphere on Temple Mount. I felt quite emotional being there and was completely awe-struck. The week was also made special because of the nature of our group - there was such a sense of anticipation, excitement and appreciation amongst our party. I feel that we all had many positive experiences to take away with us. The tour also left me with a desire to know more and confirmed my passion for my subject".



## COURSES

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2010**  
**4.15 – 5.45 pm**

### **Religious Symbols** **What can we learn from them?**

The session will consider a range of approaches to teaching and learning in this unit, ensuring balance between AT1 and AT2 and providing practical and meaningful opportunities for assessment

**Cath Large**, former adviser for RE in Bedfordshire with responsibility for leading working groups of teachers on the development of the Agreed Syllabus; author and editor of KS3 RE series, 'This is RE'; S48 inspector; leader of courses for Bedfordshire teachers on the implementation of the new KS3 strategy.

**Woodland Middle School, Flitwick MK45 1NP**

*To book please contact: Mrs Eileen Shaw, Holywell Lodge, 41 Holywell Hill, St Albans, Herts. AL1 1HE*  
Tel: 01727 818178, Fax: 01727 844469,  
E-mail: [eshaw@stalbens.anglican.org](mailto:eshaw@stalbens.anglican.org)

### **EFFECTIVE LEARNING IN RE**

*Practical and inspiring classroom action for  
5 – 11s*

**THURSDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2010**

**PUTTERIDGEBURY CONFERENCE CENTRE**  
**HITCHIN ROAD, LUTON BEDS. LU2 8LE**

#### **Course Fee:**

<b>Diocesan Church Schools</b>	<b>£110</b>
<b>L A Schools</b>	<b>£130</b>

A one day conference organised and led by Lat Blaylock in collaboration with the Diocese of St Albans to address the needs of RE and the Primary Curriculum.

For further information or to book a place please contact:  
Mrs Eileen Shaw  
Holywell Lodge  
41 Holywell Hill  
St Albans  
Herts. AL12 1HE

Tel: 01727 818178:  
E-mail: [eshaw@stalbens.anglican.org](mailto:eshaw@stalbens.anglican.org)

### **Bedfordshire RE Society** **AGM 2010**

### **ANNUAL LECTURE AND AGM** **AFL in RE**

**Woodland Middle School, Flitwick MK45 1NP**

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

**Speaker: Sue Ward**  
**(Cambridgeshire LA Religious Education Adviser)**

### **Dates for your diary –**

**To all RE teachers in Bedfordshire Middle schools!**

**What do people say about God and the Universe?**

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2010**  
**4.15 – 5.45 pm**

**Cath Large** formerly adviser for RE in Bedfordshire with responsibility for leading working groups of teachers on the development of the Agreed Syllabus; author and editor of KS3 RE series, 'This is RE'; S48 inspector; leader of courses for Bedfordshire teachers on the implementation of the new KS3 strategy.

Shefford Lower School, School Lane, Shefford, Beds SG17 5XA

*A Very Happy Easter from  
the Chairman and  
committee of the RE  
Society of Bedfordshire*

