

RE Autumn Newsletter 2022

Welcome back and we all hope you had a very restful summer break. If you need any help or advice please contact the RE Adviser Amanda Fitton. Contacts details below.

amanda.fitton@cambridgeshire.go.uk

Religious Education and Collective Worship and the Right to withdraw

We would like to remind schools that all parents have the right to withdraw their children from religious education and/or collective worship, this can be all of or specific parts of religious education. From the age of 16, pupils can choose for themselves to opt out of collective worship if they wish. However, they cannot opt out of receiving religious education without parental consent until they are 18. These requests stand until the parent requests otherwise.

What happens to the pupil if he/she is withdrawn from Religious Education and/or Collective Worship?

If pupils are withdrawn from religious education and/or collective worship, schools have a duty to supervise them, though not to provide additional teaching or to incur extra costs. Parents can insist that the pupil does not stay in the RE lesson and therefore the school will have to provide another place for the pupil to go.

If a pupil is withdrawn and alternative arrangements cannot be made for the type of RE the parents' desire, for example, due to resources/timetabling etc, it is the parents' responsibility to provide materials for their child which have clear outcomes and are connected to the faith/philosophy/world view of the parents.

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/>

New Agreed Syllabus

This academic year we will be launching the new Agreed Syllabus for 2023—2028 called Religion and Worldviews. There will be a launch conference next June involving keynote speakers and works shops venue, date and price are still to be confirmed, so please keep an eye out for all the details.

Agreed Syllabus

We would like to remind all schools that they should all be following an Agreed Syllabus. If you are a Community/LA school or a Voluntary Controlled school this should be the 2018 –2023 Cambridgeshire, Peterborough or Rutland Agreed syllabus. If you are an academy or a voluntary Aided school you still have to follow a syllabus and it is advised that it should be the locally agreed one. For a copy please use the links below:

[Agreed Syllabus 2018 -2023 \(cambridgeshire.gov.uk\)](http://cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

[AgreedReligiousEducationSyllabus2018-2023 \(peterborough.gov.uk\)](http://peterborough.gov.uk)

[Agreed Syllabus 2018 - 2023 \(6\).pdf](#) (Rutland)

RE and Ofsted

In May 2021 Ofsted published its report into Religious Education as part of its 'Research Review series'. The report explored different factors behind what was being taught in English schools from Reception through to KS5 and how this relates to Ofsted's Education Inspection framework (EIF). The report is comprehensive and very informative on what Ofsted consider RE should look like in our schools and how it should be approached. For those involved in RE it is good news and shows the importance of RE as part of the core curriculum and as an academic subject.

It is really important that all teachers read the report, absorb what has been said and begin to look at what is being advised compared to what is being taught in your school. As Ofsted states

'Its purpose is to identify factors that contribute to high-quality school RE curriculums, the teaching of the curriculum, assessment and systems. We will use this understanding of subject quality to examine how RE is taught in England's schools where RE falls under Ofsted's inspection remit.' Ofsted May 2021

All schools should note that a second report will be published next spring on the quality of the RE curriculum taught in schools and Ofsted will gather evidence for this through subject 'deep dives' during inspections under the EIF.

[Research review series: religious education - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/research-review-series/religious-education)

Become part of SACRE

SACRE is the local authority body that agrees what should be taught in RE in the local area. It is made up of different committees from different faith communities, local authority councillors and from the all schools. We do have vacancies for teachers to sit on SACRE and so be involved in what RE is taught. Being a member involves three meetings over the academic year and some other activities if time allows. If you would like further information please contact Laura Corcoran laura.corcoran@peterborough.gov.uk (Peterborough and Cambridgeshire) or Tom Delaney TDelaney@rutland.gov.uk (Rutland)

RE Training courses

This term's training courses will be held virtually via Zoom from 3.30pm until 5.00pm and face to face at Buckden Village Hall from 9.00am—12.30pm.

The courses this term are;

Tuesday 5th October—Leading RE—This course is targeted at both new and current RE coordinators who need support and advice on how to lead RE. The aim is to provide practical advice and ideas to ensure that RE is taught and monitored effectively. Face to Face at Buckden Village Hall 9.00am—12.30pm

Thurs 20th October – RE and Ofsted—This session will consider the requirements for OFSTED and Religious Education and the deep dive process. To look at how RE can fit into the broader curriculum and to understand the requirements of RE as a core subject. Via zoom –3.30pm –5.00pm

Over the next academic year we are running a series of virtual courses to help build knowledge and understanding of the six major world faiths and Humanism. The first two are as follows ;

Thursday 17th November —The basics of Christianity and Judaism

To book please follow the link — [Booking and reservations for Religious Education Service \(bookingbug.com\)](https://www.bookingbug.com)

Network meetings

Network meetings will return this term but will hopefully be held face to face with venues to be confirmed. There will be a theme for each meeting and this term's will be announced nearer the dates. The dates are;

Monday 28th November 2022 (this will be in Rutland but all welcome)

Wednesday 30th November 2022 (this will be in Peterborough but all welcome)

Monday 5th December 2022 (this will be in Cambridgeshire but all welcome)

These will be available to book these using the following link— [Booking and reservations for Religious Education Service \(bookingbug.com\)](https://www.bookingbug.com)

Knowledge organisers

There have been numerous requests for help with knowledge organisers for RE to fit with the knowledge rich curriculum. The locally agreed syllabus encourages schools to base their RE curriculum on the needs of their pupils looking at both AT1—learning about religion and belief and AT2—learning from religion and belief. Included in the locally agreed syllabus is the ‘assessment tool’ for primary schools and this includes statements for both AT1 and AT2, the knowledge and skills each year group need for RE. They are written in generic form and can be used for any topic or unit pupils are looking at in RE to inform the knowledge organisers. Please see the link below to the agreed syllabus and the primary tool documents.

<https://www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/religious-education>

<https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-education/religious-education>

<https://www.rutland.gov.uk/my-services/schools-education-and-learning/religious-education/>

RE and World Views

Over the past few years there has been a ‘conversation’ running over the approach to RE and how to approach the World views as part of RE. This is not an easy topic to summarise as the RE world has yet to come to a clear definition. Our advice is to read around the subject and links have been included below.

[Exploring Worldviews - REC Discussion Papers | The Religious Education Council of England and Wales %](#)

[Layout 1 \(commissiononre.org.uk\)](#)

[NATRE Report on the provision for RE -SWF for SOTN 2017 final4 130917.pdf](#)

Useful websites

Resource websites for RE in the primary school

With an increasing number of resources being added to our list there are now too many to add to the newsletter. If you would like an up to date copy of all recommended resources please email Amanda Fitton at amanda.fitton@cambridgeshire.go.uk who is more than happy to email them to you.

Staying connected

If you would like to be directly contacted about training and events organised by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough 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.

Black History Month

October 2022 is Black History month and this is a good opportunity for schools to be part of the national celebrations and events to honour the too-often unheralded accomplishments of Black Britons in every area of endeavour throughout our history. There are a lot of resources available but the link below is particularly good.

[Black History Month Resource Pack 2021 - Proud to be - Black History Month 2021](#)

Interfaith Week

Interfaith week is the 13th to 20th November and is a good opportunity to bring together the different faiths and world beliefs that make up our communities and society. To get involved and for resources please follow the link. [Inter Faith Week](#) If there are any local activities organised we will let you know via 'Schools News'