

All Members of the Reading Standing
Advisory Council on Religious Education

Our Ref: n:\sacre\agendas\150302
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎ 0118 937 2332
e-mail: richard.woodford@reading.gov.uk

20 February 2015

Your contact is: **Richard Woodford - Committee Services**

NOTICE OF MEETING - READING STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION -
2 MARCH 2015

A meeting of the Reading SACRE will be held on **Monday 2 March 2015 at 6.30 pm in
Committee Room 1, Civic Offices, Bridge Street, Reading.**

The Agenda for the meeting is set out below.

AGENDA

	<u>PAGE NO</u>
1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	-
2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 NOVEMBER 2014	1
3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES	
4. RE UPDATES	Verbal Report
5. ANNUAL REPORT	6
6. SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND BUDGET	9
7. PRIMARY TEACHER NETWORK MEETING - FEEDBACK	12
8. SECONDARY TEACHER CONFERENCE - FEEDBACK	Verbal Report
9. PAN BERKSHIRE RE HUB	Verbal Report
10. WESSEX RE HUB	14

11. JO FAGEANT - FAREWELL AND THANKS -

12. DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS:

- 16 June 2015
- 25 November 2015
- 1 March 2016

READING STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MINUTES -
26 NOVEMBER 2014

Present:

Rabbi Zvi Solomons	Jewish Faith (Group A)
Jo Fageant	Church of England (Group B)
Robin Sharples	Church of England (Group B)
Vera Bodman	NUT (Group C)
Michael Freeman	ATL (Group C)
Councillor Ennis	Reading Borough Council (Group D)
Councillor Khan	Reading Borough Council (Group D)

Also in Attendance:

Teresa Jones	RC Diocese of Portsmouth (Group A) (nominee)
Jan Lever	RE Consultant
Richard Woodford	Reading Borough Council

Apologies:

Anne Cheeseman	Church of England (Group B)
Councillor O'Connell	Reading Borough Council (Group D)
Jamie Howell	Berkshire Humanist

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

Rabbi Solomons was elected as Chair of the SACRE for the Municipal Year 2014/2015.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

Anne Cheeseman was elected as Vice-Chair of the SACRE for the Municipal Year 2014/2015.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Further to Minute 3 of the last meeting, Matters Arising - SACRE Constitution, the Chair confirmed that he had written a letter to the Head of Education Services, Kevin McDaniel, explaining the reasons for the change to the SACRE's Constitution and asking for help in finding representatives from a range of different schools and teachers in the Borough who would be willing to be members of the SACRE.

Further to Minute 4 of the last meeting, NASACRE Conference 22 May 2014 - Feedback, Jan Lever reported that she had met with Ian Muir, Senior Schools Adviser, who had arranged for her to attend the School Governors Forum in September 2014 (see Minute 5, below). Jan also confirmed that she would circulate the draft RE Directory to members of the SACRE for them to complete.

AGREED:

**READING STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MINUTES -
26 NOVEMBER 2014**

- (1) That the position be noted;
- (2) That a copy of the draft RE Directory be circulated to members of the SACRE by Jan Lever for them to complete.

5. SACRE DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND BUDGET UPDATES

Jan Lever submitted a copy of the Draft Development Plan for the period April 2014 to March 2015 and reported that all actions for autumn 2014 had been achieved.

The SACRE discussed the Development Plan and it was suggested that a letter be written to the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsed) asking them to give more attention to RE when they inspected schools in the Borough.

AGREED:

- (1) That the position be noted;
- (2) That Jan Lever be thanked for her work on behalf of the SACRE;
- (3) That a letter be written by the Chair of the SACRE to Ofsted asking them to give more attention to RE when they inspected schools in the Borough.

6. SACRE AND SCHOOL GOVERNORS

Jan Lever reported that she had given a presentation at the School Governors Forum in September 2014 to remind governors of their responsibilities with regard to RE and telling them of the opportunities that were being organised by the SACRE. The aim had also been to raise the profile and importance of the SACRE to governors.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

7. PRIMARY TEACHER NETWORK MEETING

Jan Lever submitted a copy of the agenda and minutes of the Wokingham Primary teacher network meeting, autumn 2014 that had included information and lesson plans on Holocaust Memorial Day that would take place on 27 January 2015 and had been discussed at the Reading primary teacher network meeting.

Jan reported that the main update at the meeting had been the Church of England review on the teaching of RE in its schools (Making a Difference ?) and the focus of the meeting had been preparation for Holocaust Memorial Day with the aim of helping primary schools do something positive to mark the day. Teachers had been shown the Holocaust Memorial Day web site and some sample lesson plans.

Jan informed the SACRE that attendance at the network meeting had again been low, although teachers from different schools to those who had previously taken part had attended.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

**READING STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MINUTES -
26 NOVEMBER 2014**

8. SECONDARY TEACHER NETWORK MEETING

Jan Lever reported that a secondary teacher network meeting had been held on 22 October 2014 at Forest School in Wokingham and that a representative from one Reading school had attended. The meeting had focused on changes in the exam syllabus and curriculum and teachers had agreed to meet again when the changes had been finalised. The meeting had also considered its second annual conference that would take place on 23 February 2014, to which all SACRE members would be welcome to attend. The nature and content of the conference had been discussed and a number of topics had been suggested including standards (how to achieve A*), achieving outstanding from Ofsted for RE departments and the use of film and media in the teaching of RE. Jan informed the SACRE that she would be organising a proposed programme and cost for the conference as it was unlikely that the SACRE subsidy would cover all the suggestions that had been made.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

9. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SUBJECT LEADER TRAINING

Jan Lever submitted details of the subject leader training that had taken place with two half-day sessions being held on 2 and 8 October 2014, one in Wokingham and one in Reading. More representatives from Wokingham schools had attended than from Reading schools and Jan had met with Ian Muir, Senior Schools Adviser, to discuss how attendance from schools in the Borough could be increased as many opportunities for participation were being provided but were not being taken up by Reading schools.

The two sessions had looked at a number of issues including the following:

- Understanding the National RE picture;
- Key documents, Religious Education Council/Ofsted/Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS);
- Ofsted/SIAMS expectations;
- SACRE and the locally agreed syllabus;
- Subject leader's roles responsibilities and boundaries.

The meetings had also focused on the roles of subject leaders that included keeping a folder with evidence of RE activity and activities aimed at helping and inspiring staff. After the first session some questions had been distributed for consideration before the second session where ideas and potential solutions were suggested.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

10. TEACHER CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ON LOCATION DAY

Jan Lever submitted details of the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) day trip for teachers in Reading and Wokingham which had taken place on 12 November 2014.

**READING STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MINUTES -
26 NOVEMBER 2014**

This was the second 'on location' training day for teachers at places of worship in Reading and had included visits to a Hindu Temple, Sikh Gurdwara and three different Christian places of worship. Photos had been taken at each venue and had been put together to form a teaching resource and made available on the Council's web site. With two on location days having taken place a total of nine different places of worship had been visited.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

11. A REVIEW OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN CHURCH SCHOOLS

Jan Lever submitted a copy of a report entitled 'Making a Difference? A Review of Religious Education in Church of England Schools' that had been published by the Church of England Archbishops' Council Education Division and The National Society. In order to carry out the review of the overall effectiveness of teaching and learning in RE a survey of 30 Church secondary and 30 primary schools had been carried out. The survey had been led by Alan Brine HMI who had been Ofsted's lead for RE since 2007.

Jo Fageant, who had been a member of the survey team, that what the survey had revealed, especially in the primary sector, had been a lack of subject knowledge, a common trend had been that there had been a lack of clarity around the purpose of RE. Good and poor practice had been found in primary and secondary schools (secondary schools had had more specialist RE teachers) and the issues that had been raised were not dissimilar to those found in non-church schools in the last Ofsted subject report (October 2013).

AGREED: That the report be noted.

12. PAN-BERKSHIRE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION HUB

Jan Lever reported that a meeting of representatives from all six Berkshire SACREs had taken place in the summer where she and Jo Fageant had outlined the possibilities of the six SACREs collaborating to form a hub. Subjects had been discussed that the SACREs could work together on either as a whole or in part so that resources could be pooled.

The next meeting to discuss further the way forward would take place on 5 December 2014.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

13. OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Holocaust Memorial Day

The Chair informed the SACRE that an event to mark Holocaust Memorial Day would take place at 6.00 pm on 20 January 2015 in the Victoria Room at the Town Hall.

(b) Speakers Corner

**READING STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MINUTES -
26 NOVEMBER 2014**

The Chair informed the SACRE that he was arranging an event to take place on 23 April 2015, St George's Day, at Speakers Corner in Reading where pupils from schools in the area would be talking about what faith meant to them and in the process would learn about other people's faith. Jan Lever suggested that the event could be included in the school's newsletter.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

14. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

Monday 2 March 2015

(The meeting started at 6.30 pm and finished at 7.45 pm).

Foreword by Chair

This year has been one of building and consolidation, in the face of the national challenges all SACREs are facing. Our CPD day has been enthusiastically taken up and pursued for a second year. We have started working together with other SACREs to provide more opportunities to enhance and improve the teaching of RE in local schools, and joining together to provide teachers with better support. The development of Reading SACRE has moved forwards, with new members making their presence felt at meetings.

Many thanks to all the Members of the SACRE and to Jan, our Advisor, who has helped us to improve and develop our provision for the Borough.

Rabbi Zvi Solomons

Chair: Reading SACRE

Awareness campaign

Teacher network meetings

Secondary RE conference

CPD on location

Teaching Resources

RE Subject leader training

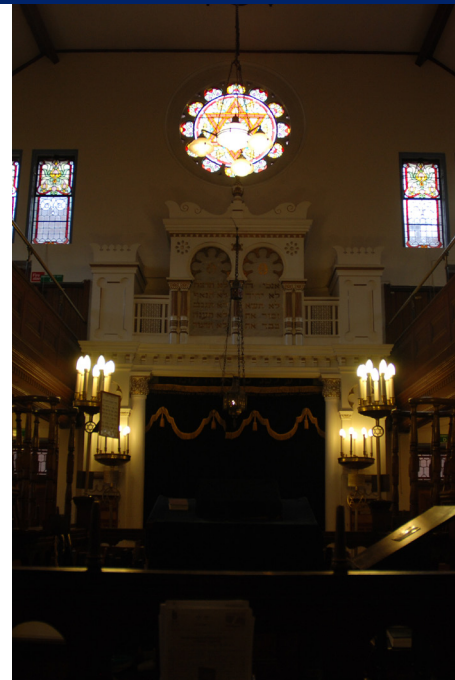
The Pan-Berkshire Hub

What has happened this year?

The Autumn Term 2014 marked the start of the third academic year in the lifespan of the Pan-Berkshire agreed syllabus for Religious Education. This, in a climate of change, with the introduction of the new National Curriculum in primary schools, increasing academisation and a changing landscape relating to assessment and the examination system.

Events on the national and global stage have brought even more attention to religion and its related conflicts, and to the impact, not always positive, on education. The introduction of the government's British Values agenda has also given Religious Education the opportunity to show just how it can contribute significantly to children and young people's knowledge and understanding of themselves and others, whilst also attempting to help them grapple with the difficult questions that arise from within themselves and are also generated by looking at the world around them.

The recent Government focus on 'character building' also affords schools the opportunity to bring RE to the foreground as this subject develops and nurtures attitude, critical thinking skills and empathy, amongst many other positive skills and qualities.



All of this reinforces Reading SACRE's commitment to supporting schools and teachers to deliver high quality RE.

The Reading SACRE keeps in touch with schools and teachers and tailors its yearly action plan to meet their needs in order to keep pushing RE leaning forward.

The SACRE has continued to appreciate the support of Reading Borough Council, the funding offered enabling support for teachers and schools to continue.

The SACRE has met once each term to progress this work and liaises closely with Reading Borough Council, structuring its work each year through the agreed development plan. Its membership is consistent and it is well-served by very dedicated Chair and Vice-Chair as well as by its very able clerk and professional RE adviser.

The Reading SACRE continues to be committed to progressing RE across the Borough, believing this subject to have major significance to children and young people's development, both personal and academic.

The SACRE has worked hard this year to ensure schools understand its roles and to build strong bridges between itself and the schools it serves on behalf of the Borough.

Awareness campaign

The RE adviser to the SACRE gave a presentation to the Governors' Forum in order to raise awareness of the nature and work of the SACRE and to ensure school governors understand their responsibilities towards RE, and the annual report will be delivered in person to the Council members.

The full support of Reading Borough Council enables the SACRE to communicate directly with schools through the regular e.newsletters. However, more work is still needed to ensure communication between the SACRE and schools is effective.



Teacher network meetings

Primary teachers have been afforded a termly network meeting offering them updates on both national and local initiatives in RE as well as input on aspects of RE e.g. Holocaust Memorial Day, assessing learning etc. These meetings also give opportunities to share good practice as well as to feed back to the SACRE on what support would be helpful.

Secondary teachers also have a termly opportunity to meet together at an after-school meeting run jointly with Wokingham. In this time of change, these sessions offer the chance to discuss concerns, share practice and plan training.

This year both primary and secondary network meetings have been slightly better attended reflecting the ongoing commitment of teachers to continue to protect this subject and progress it in their schools.

Focus areas for these meetings have included: RE's contribution to British values and the new Ofsted expectations, and the consideration of the Church of England's latest report on RE in church schools.



Secondary RE conference

February 2014 saw the first joint Wokingham/Reading secondary RE conference. Subsidised and supported by both SACREs, and with SACRE members attending as delegates and also as presenters, this was a very well-received day. The SACREs wish to thank the RE Department at Waingels College for organising and hosting the event for colleagues.

Building on this success, these two SACREs are subsidising a second conference in February 2015, this time to be held at Forest School, Wokingham. This conference has Alan Brine, the recently-retired HMI for RE, addressing current RE issues as well as workshops on teaching ethical issues and using a philosophical approach.





CPD on location

By popular request, the second training day on location was held on November 12th. Teachers were taken to 5 places of worship in Reading, 3 different Christian churches, a Hindu temple and a Sikh gurdwara. This proves to be an effective way to improve teachers' knowledge about each religion as well as providing them with suggested teaching activities and contacts at the places of worship. The photographs illustrating this report are from this training day and the 'on location' day in 2013. They reflect the places visited and do not pretend to offer a balanced representation of the principal religions in Reading or the religions required to be taught in the agreed syllabus. The places were selected at teachers' requests.

Teaching resources

Following the success of last year's teaching resources made using the photographs taken during the CPD on location day, this year's 'on location day' did the same thing and produced powerpoint presentations using images from each of the 5 places of worship visited. These are tailored to serve the requirements of the agreed syllabus but also give flexibility in how they can be used. These resources have been disseminated to all Reading schools whether they attended the development day or not. Thus the SACRE has been able to provide yet more cost-effective teaching resources as requested by teachers.

RE Subject leader training

Responding to teachers' needs, and also mindful of Ofsted and other national reports on RE which point to a lack of training for subject leaders in RE, this year saw a new 2-session course offered to support teachers new to this role. It covered the roles and responsibilities of the subject leader, expectations, monitoring, curriculum planning, assessing learning etc. It was gratefully received by the teachers attending, raising their confidence to lead this subject across their schools. This was run for Reading and Wokingham teachers.



The Pan-Berkshire Hub

The 2014 annual conference of all 6 Berkshire SACREs, focused on the possibilities which could be presented should all 6 SACREs be willing to work more closely together. Potential advantages and concerns were discussed and the unanimous verdict was to take the idea forward, the 6 Chairs meeting to further discuss plans in December 2014.

The December meeting saw all SACREs represented and all more than willing to discuss joint working in a variety of ways. The first project may be to extend the 'on location' training for teachers to make use of places of worship across the whole of Berkshire and to invite both teachers and SACRE members to attend. Future meetings are scheduled and plans will be consolidated after each Chair has reported back to its SACRE in the Spring Term 2015.

DRAFT Reading SACRE development plan April 2014-March 2015

Aim	Actions	Timescales	People Responsible	Cost	Summer 2014	Autumn 2014	Spring 2015
A. To be a supportive and proactive SACRE enjoying full and well-informed membership.	1. Fill membership vacancies	End July 2014	SACRE Chair Committee Services				
	2. SACRE members attend termly SACRE meetings (3 per year) and, when possible, teacher termly network meetings and training events	Termly SACRE meetings: Summer 2014 Autumn 2014 Spring 2015 Termly teacher network meetings Occasional training events	SACRE Chair/SACRE Adviser SACRE members SACRE Clerk	SACRE Adviser to prepare and attend x3 SACRE meetings a year @ £500 per term =£1500 SACRE Clerk to administer each meeting	Mtg 17 June	Mtg 26 November	Mtg 2 March
	3. Produce annual SACRE Report	Autumn Term 2014	SACRE Adviser and clerk	SACRE Adviser x1 day @£500		Bring draft to November meeting	Presented at March mtg and to Councillors on 4 March
	4. Review the development plan at each meeting and update for next year	At each SACRE meeting	SACRE Adviser and SACRE	SACRE Adviser time included in A2 above	June 17 th mtg	Nov 26 mtg	March 2 mtg
	5. ~Subscribe to NASACRE ~ Representation at annual NASACRE conference, NASACRE AGM and local SACRE events including the annual pan-Berkshire SACRE conference	Ongoing	SACRE members SACRE Adviser to organise Jo Fageant re pan-Berks event/s	Subscription £95 Conference/s and AGM budget £500 SACRE Adviser time if needs to be the SACRE representative x1 day shared with Wokingham £250	JL to attend NASACRE conference 22 May in London. Michael Freeman also attending		

<p>B. To support teachers of RE to continually improve RE learning in their schools and</p> <p>C. To support the implementation of the revised Berkshire Agreed Syllabus for RE</p>	<p>6. Members to present aspects of their faith/beliefs to SACRE to inform members</p> <p>1. Provide a termly primary RE network meeting for Reading teachers, 4-5.30 hosted by schools. SACRE members welcome.</p>	<p>At selected SACRE meetings</p> <p>Autumn term 2014:8/10/14 The Avenue Centre Spring term 2015: 3/2/15 St Mary and All Saints</p>	<p>SACRE members. Decide plan at SACRE meetings: Chair</p> <p>Led by Jan Lever</p>	<p>SACRE Adviser x3 half days @£250 = £750</p>		<p>Only 3 teachers attended</p>	<p>3 February 2015 Report at 2 March mtg</p>
	<p>2. Provide, jointly with Wokingham SACRE, a termly secondary RE network meeting, 4-5.30, hosted by a school. RE teachers and SACRE members to be invited</p>	<p>Once a term (3 per year) Summer 2014:8 July Forest School Autumn 2014 Spring 2015 venues tba Hosted by schools</p>	<p>SACRE to plan etc in liaison with Secondary Federation manager/LA</p>	<p>SACRE Adviser x1.5 days @ £500 = £750. Cost shared with Wokingham so Reading contributes £375</p>	<p>Summer Term mtg July 8th to decide agenda for next year's mtgs</p>	<p>Oct 22 at Forest School. Planning for Feb 2015 conference</p>	<p>Sprint Term conference instead 23 Feb</p>
	<p>3. Provide, jointly with Wokingham, a 2nd 'on location' training day for teachers at Places of Worship in Reading</p>	<p>Autumn 2014</p>		<p>£1000 (4 days adviser time to organise, attend, lead and collate resources after event (4@£500 =£2000 shared with Wokingham so £1000 for Reading SACRE)</p>	<p>Teachers want to go to Hindu Temple and a range of Christian places of worship</p>	<p>Nov 12th Hindu temple, Sikh gurdwara and x3 Christian places of worship</p>	
	<p>4. Subject Leader Training x2 half-day sessions</p>	<p>Autumn term 2014</p>		<p>2 days adviser time @ £500 a day..shared with Wokingham £500 for</p>	<p>To be advertised September</p>	<p>2 and 8 Oct</p>	

				Reading			
	5. Annual Secondary RE conference	Spring 2015		£500 to support school organisation and attendance	To be discussed July 8 th at network mtg	Feb 23 2015 conference	Report at 2 March mtg

Reading Network meeting

3 February 2015 4-5.45pm.

St Mary and All Saints School

Present

- Palmira Mann - Coley Primary
- Lisa Rosser - New Christ church
- Katie Livesey - Caversham Primary
- Anne Andrews - Diocese of Oxford

Issues discussed

1. Definition and role of SACRE explained to one of the group who had just inherited the role of RE co-ordinator
2. Assessment, do we still use levels? The Pan-Berkshire syllabus uses levels so keep using them until it is revised in 2017. If your school does not use levels just use the language of the levels to keep track of progress.
3. How to help improve RE in school? Do an audit of staff skills and ask where the gaps in knowledge are - open a dialogue to address the findings
4. Discovery RE used in tandem with the Pan-Berks syllabus, some tweaks but it fits...some religions can be moved to different times to fit the syllabus.
5. When visited by Ofsted or Siams etc. Key point in observations - Do the activities fit the learning criteria? Ensure marking gives guidance on how to develop. This is crucial. **MEANINGFUL MARKING** was discussed in detail, 1 example per unit is enough.
6. Diocesan support - The Christianity unit is delayed but will be available soon - Anne can visit schools (cost to non-church schools) Anne has written a unit called 'Does Reading need it's Abbey?' which she is happy to share for feedback and will distribute to attendees via email. This was greatly appreciated by all
7. NATRE support... we are affiliated - how are reductions available on training etc? Anne kindly offered to find out... RE today materials discussed.
8. Utilising the local area more, in light of the cpd trips to places of worship, teachers discussed ways of taking children to the faith communities and experiencing for themselves - the trips were praised and it is hoped that these will continue... tie this in with exploring more local ways of showing faith in action like bed for a night idea or food banks, - arranging more visits - some issues were raised here e.g. the Hindu temple only wanted visits between 9.30-10.30- this time slot is hard for schools to co-ordinate.
9. Examples of good practice shared.... Students, studying the langar in Sikhism, on learning that everyone would be fed, Sikh or otherwise, had decided to email their local vicar to see whether he would welcome other faiths into church to share.
10. EYFS style recording was encouraged and discussed, using photos and 'post its' rather than the usual desire to write something down in a more formal way.

11. R.E in the Media... BBC article on 'RE never been needed more' Re council - RE online website.

CPD requests

Training input on the following issues:

1. What does outstanding RE look like?
2. Improving subject knowledge
3. Continuing the cycle of visiting places of worship to establish contacts and also continue to provide PowerPoints on the places of worship which have already been really useful back in school
4. Assessment- particularly how to help level 4 get to level 5 in Attainment targets 1&2

South Central Hub

Winchester - 9 February 2015

Notes

There were many apologies including Rubina N and Derek Holloway

Present Included

Pat Hannam, Rhiannon Love, Elizabeth Jenkinson, SACRE people from Southampton, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth,

Background

- Funded by Culham/ St Gabriel's money
- Last meeting in November... Scoping meeting... What needs to be done?
- Working together is better than alone
- Dorset hub... Small - wants to collaborate with Hants
- Hub Conveyors meeting in April in Birmingham - focus is 'Let's share....'

Issues agreed at last meeting

3 core things

1. **Research and reading group**
2. **Networking**
3. **Subject knowledge booster ideas**

1. Research and reading group

- The Hub is keen on setting up research projects using the university - particularly to go towards masters accreditation for existing teachers. Funding for this could be gained through another bid to Culham/St Gabriel's
- Proposed meetings for those wishing to take the research course on May 11th and July 8th.... After this teachers will hopefully sign up for Sept masters...
- Content could be current issues in RE or different approaches, pedagogies,
- Information could be provided through webinars (the university has the facilities) so that teachers further afield can access this opportunity.
- Advertising for this is essential - suggestions to do so included using existing contacts, setting up Social media advertising like a Facebook page/group. The hub could also contact schools, use network meetings, personal contacts, go to church schools, governors with RE focus etc.
- Need to make a flyer,

What sort of things should we research?

Ideas

- Use of quality outside speakers on day 2 of the training
- On the first day (in May) teachers could look at introductory papers on the speakers for day 2 to whet their appetite...

Ideas for speakers

3 different topics and approaches - 3 Different speakers

All 3 in one session?

- Critical realism - aggressive RE- focussing on differences -
- Andrew Wright.... Philip Barnes. One of his people would come down
- Bob Jackson - interpretive approach, Warwick

(It was mentioned that most teachers would not know who these people were so it would be important that the content was relevant to current practice)

2. Networking...

Aim = Improve Leadership of RE across the region,

- Network meetings exist (most of these are in School time, afternoons)
- Hants now in partnership with the Isle of Wight - RE networks to be set up
- Portsmouth - PH has made some visits to raise the status of RE
- Secondary RE networks already exist in Hants

What is the purpose of networks?

- To improve (and develop) leadership of RE...
- Developing middle leadership is good for schools as well as RE
- There is a range of expertise... need to cater for experts and novices
- Good practice is to run the same content in networks...
- Sharing ideas on issues like assessment - PH asked what the Discovery RE position was on levels.
- Start on how we deal with difficult situations - re-visiting work on islamophobia...
 - o British values doc,
 - o SMSC OFSTED 2015 document...
- Join NATRE
- Diocesan networks also running

3. Subject knowledge booster ideas

Areas of need

1. Becoming an RE specialist - shortage of teachers, recruitment issues... Attracting people and keeping people in the area., growing the next generation of subject leaders
2. Subject knowledge that people can pick up ad hoc like **Living difference** courses ... For non specialists and those who have relocated from out of county... Pick up bits as and when.. Pat is often bought in to help
3. The New GCSE specifications ... Even established RE people are not necessarily going to know enough to deliver the depth of content - half day session on getting to grips with Buddhism for GCSE... Could provide a full day Islam at KS 3&4., could also be available for primary....religion specific methodology and pedagogy as well as subject knowledge... A need for primary subject knowledge...

DR shared the 'Dialogues with religion' ... this was an idea they could roll out.

Afternoon session

Conclusions and actions

1. Research stuff

- Submit another bid to Culham/St Gabriel's for help with research projects
- Set up Facebook page and Facebook group
- Organise flyer to advertise for teachers to be involved in the reading and research group.
- Publicity - circulation of news etc...
- PH to approach Bob Jackson, Andrew Wright and others to present theories including questions and discussions.... What will be the cost? Goodwill?

2. Networks

- General discussions, no real actions.
- Should they be in school time or twilight?
- Make sure we link to Dorset RE exchange

3a Subject booster knowledge.... 'Conversion' courses... to RE from other subjects...
Other options to be explored

3b dialogues with religions...

Look into ideas...SACRE members - need to be carefully chosen - background in Education?

Next meeting

Dates (using Culham's money)
Weds 6th May possibly 9.15 - 2. 30