

Progress report for SACRE, May 2017, Lat Blaylock, Consultant, RE Today

Collaboration for a new RE Agreed Syllabus

Bedford Borough / Central Bedfordshire / Luton

Since the SACRE meetings in the Spring Term, I am very pleased to be able to say we have made progress in developing and auctioning our plans for the new RE syllabus, which I summarise here. I am particularly grateful to Jane Chipperton for her thoughtful brokerage of the way forward.

We have:

1. Agreed with all three SACREs the budget and outline plan for a new syllabus.
2. Agreed the budget, and reserved the funds needed for the syllabus with contributions from all three Local Authorities and the Diocese of Saint Albans currently held at the Diocese by mutual agreement.
3. Developed, trialled and launched an online 'Survey Monkey' questionnaire to gather the ideas and opinions of all stakeholders in our work about the directions and needs we must meet if the new syllabus is to be successful (copies available). The web address to fill this in is: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Bedssyllabusrev2017>
4. We propose that this remain open to respondents until 30th June.
5. We have agreed to set up a meeting for teachers of RE on SACRE and other interested stakeholders (not all SACRE members –they will monitor the process by our regular meetings) on July Tuesday July 11th from 1.30 to 4.15pm. This meeting will be at: Woodland Middle School, Malham Close, Flitwick, Beds, MK45 1NP. I'm grateful to them for hosting.
6. I have done preliminary work on the key issues of: EYFS RE for 4-5s, RE and British Values, Outcomes-led RE for compatibility with the National Curriculum, 'life after levels' assessment and the new GCSE RS curriculum.
7. I have done preliminary work on the integration of our current units of study with the 'Understanding Christianity' resource, which so many of our schools (all Anglican schools and others) are implementing. It is agreed in all three authorities that making it possible for schools to integrate Agreed Syllabus RE with this project is desirable. I will present this in a separate paper – very much a draft.

Lat Blaylock, May 15th 2017