



To all Leaders and Heads of RE in
Plymouth schools using the Plymouth
Agreed Syllabus

**Standing Advisory Council on
Religious Education (SACRE)
c/o Democratic and Member
Support**

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Dear all

SACRE and RE News - April 2017

I am writing to you on behalf of the Plymouth Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE).

As you probably know, the Commission on Religious Education (CoRE) an independent body, established by the Religious Education Council, is currently undertaking a thorough review of: *"The legal, education and policy frameworks for religious education and to make evidence-based recommendations for policy makers and educationalists to consider. CoRE presents a "once in a lifetime" opportunity to think deeply and broadly about the character, significance and role of religious education in our current local, national and global context. CoRE will publish an interim report in mid-2017 and a final report in mid-2018. CoRE consists of fourteen Commissioners, all appointed as individuals, with a wide range of expertise in RE or in other relevant areas."*

Plymouth SACRE has also been asked recently, to contribute to the Big National Association of SACREs (NASACRE) survey, as a way of trying to build up a picture of what the state of the nation's SACREs is! So, there is a great deal going on and we await the outcomes of these two important reports.

Meanwhile, here in Plymouth, we are also thinking about how best to develop plans for religious education. RE that is academically rigorous, provides opportunities for spiritual development and prepares our young people for the opportunities and challenges of life in twenty-first century Britain.

So, if you have thoughts and ideas about this, please contact me. We say in our current syllabus; "With the support of schools, teachers, SACRE, faith communities, groups and individuals, we seek to create and continue to develop, a Religious Education syllabus that every school will want to provide and every pupil will want to study."

If you teach in an Infant, Primary or Special school you should find an excellent resource book enclosed, "Opening-Up Judaism". If not, this will indicate that you have already received a copy when you or a colleague attended some recent *Teaching Judaism* sessions at the Synagogue. If this is not the case, please contact me!

Support for teachers of RE:

Enclosed is some information about services for schools, from the **Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity** which is now situated on the University Technical College campus in Devonport.

Our **Plymouth RE Hub** continues to meet each term, (six times a year). Led by Katie Freeman, these regular meetings provide a wealth of practical help, resources, inspiration and support.

Contact Katie for further information: katie.freeman@stmattewsstcmat.org

The **Annual RE conference**. This year Lat Blaylock will be joined by Deborah Weston OBE, on Friday 12th May at the Copthorne Hotel for an amazing day of inspirational RE! If this reaches you in time, there may still be places available so contact Katie immediately!

SACRE has some **funding grants of £250** each, to support the development of RE in your school. Projects must address and illustrate something of the approach highlighted in our syllabus which states that: *"we want to emphasise the importance of our unique, local Plymouth story, through focussed learning and enquiry on; heritage, diversity and spirituality."*

References and connections to the Mayflower 400 event would be particularly welcome. A project should create good quality, active learning experiences and outcomes that will inspire and deepen understanding. Please contact me for further details.

The Plymouth **SACRE/RE website** contains some information and key documents with links to other RE sites and resources. This can also be useful for parents and members of the public. www.plymouth.gov.uk/schoolroom

If you have good news stories about RE in your school or concerns about RE or Collective worship or you have ideas for training and other forms of support, please let me know.

Thank you for all you are doing to help educate and inspire our young people.

Best wishes

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