

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

Dear all

This is a brief update and reminder of the resources and sources of support available to you in your important work as a Leader/Head of RE.

As you know there is currently a national Commission on RE which has just released an interim report. There are opportunities to express views and submit evidence, so do help to shape the future of RE! [Religious Education for All](#)

A **SHAP wall chart of Religious Festivals** for 2017/2018 is enclosed and the “key” to access further information is: <http://shapworkingparty.org.uk/festivalsdates2017-2018/>

Please note these resources are purchased from SHAP by SACRE for use in your school. The key should therefore not be distributed more widely, as this would undermine the future work of SHAP.

The Plymouth **SACRE and RE website** contains some useful documents such as the current RE syllabus guidance and SACRE annual reports. There are also links to other important RE sites and resources. Useful for teachers as well as members of the public.

[www.plymouth.gov.uk/schoolroom](http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/schoolroom)

Our **Plymouth RE hub**, established through the Learn Teach Lead RE project, continues to meet each term (six times a year) and goes from strength to strength under the inspiring leadership of Katie Freeman. Louise Skingle, head of RS at Hele’s, has recently joined to offer secondary support and perspectives. (Last term Hele’s were awarded the REQM Silver Award so many congratulations to Louise and the RS department!) The hub is a really active group which provides practical help, resources, inspiration and fun! For further information contact: [Katie.Freeman@StMatthewsStCMAT.org](mailto:Katie.Freeman@StMatthewsStCMAT.org) or [skingle@heles.plymouth.sch.uk](mailto:skingle@heles.plymouth.sch.uk)

The annual **Learn Teach Lead RE** conference was held at St. Mellion, from late afternoon Thursday 19th October through Friday 20th October. It was a great success and provided fantastic opportunities to extend learning and be inspired by national speakers and fellow RE teachers!

For information and details of presentations and workshops, see the website [www.ltlRE.org](http://www.ltlRE.org)

**Plymouth SACRE has funding grants** of £250 each to support the development of RE in your school. Projects must address and illustrate an aspect of the approach highlighted in our Plymouth RE syllabus, “Engaging with Religion and Worldviews” 2014, which states that:

*“In particular, we want to emphasise the importance of our unique, local Plymouth story through focused 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 resources that will inspire and deepen understanding. If you have project ideas, please provide a simple outline of your plan to me: [jonathan.marshallRE@hotmail.com](mailto:jonathan.marshallRE@hotmail.com)

**The Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity** has moved to a spacious classroom on campus at the University Technical College, Devonport. The Centre’s work in schools has grown enormously over the past two years and an amazing 600 visits, from Faith Speakers to schools or to places of worship are now completed each year! Nationally, this is a unique service of support which enables children to grow in their understanding and appreciation of the place of religion and belief in people’s lives in their local city.

For information about the Centre and its services contact Sara Wells: [info@pcfcd.co.uk](mailto:info@pcfcd.co.uk)

A reminder that the 27<sup>th</sup> January each year is **Holocaust Memorial Day**. I know many of you already plan for this through RE work and contribute to collective worship and assemblies. HMD reminds us of the important link between hate crime and preventing violent extremism. It reminds us too of our work around British Values and our role in helping children and young people develop resilience, which is closely related to spiritual development. (There is a short paper about this on the SACRE/RE website).

Sadly, our good friend Solly Irving, a Jewish holocaust survivor from London, passed away last month. His contribution to holocaust education across secondary schools in Plymouth was unique. We estimate that during 17 years over 30,000 pupils and their teachers heard his powerful testimony. There have been heartfelt tributes to him and *The Herald* has written a number of moving articles. They would welcome any further memories and reflections some of you may have.

Solly always told his young audiences that he wasn’t going to be here for ever and that in the future they should remember meeting him, a survivor; “Please be my witnesses and never let anyone deny that the holocaust happened. When you go out into the world try to make it a better place.” We shall miss him dearly.

Thank you for all you are doing to help promote a deeper understanding of the role and importance of RE in your school. With the information above, we hope you know there is support but please do contact me if you feel SACRE can do anything further to help.

On a personal note my wife and I will soon be moving away from Plymouth and next March I shall be stepping down from my very part time, freelance role that I have enjoyed over the past three years!

On behalf of Plymouth SACRE

Best wishes

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