

SACRE

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

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Curriculum Review Update

Welsh Government has published a document providing six executive summaries of the latest thinking of each of the Area of Learning and Experience working groups. The End of Strand 2 Report for the Humanities AoLE- Executive Summary explains how the AoLE promotes the four purposes.

'The Humanities working group has developed a statement outlining how the Area of Learning and Experience (AoLE) promotes the four purposes:

Through exploring big ideas about the Humanities, pupils will study the past and present, and by imagining possible futures, will learn about people, place, time and beliefs. Pupils will:

- understand historical, geographical, political, economic and societal concepts.
- explore their environment to further develop their sense of place and wellbeing.
- engage in learning experiences about rights, values, ethics, beliefs, religion, philosophy and spirituality.
- consider, explore and make informed choices regarding sustainability and the impact of their actions.
- positively contribute to their community and critically engage with local, national and global issues to become a responsible citizen of Wales and the wider world.

By exploring big ideas, pupils will gain a solid base of knowledge and understanding of different times, places and beliefs to become ambitious, capable learners. To become enterprising, creative contributors, they will develop enterprising skills and dispositions, in order to improve the everyday lives of people in their local community and in the wider world. Through understanding and respecting different beliefs and understanding how to exercise their democratic rights and responsibilities, pupils will become ethical, informed citizens.

By developing personal stances on matters of faith, spirituality, sustainability and social inclusion they will become healthy, confident individuals. This is an initial draft and a working statement that will be reviewed and updated regularly as the AoLE itself is developed.

The rest of the Humanities report and the report as a whole can be seen at:

<http://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/170707-new-curriculum-for-wales-story-so-far-en.pdf>

Agreed Syllabus for RE and the Curriculum Review

SACRE would like to take this opportunity to assure schools that the 2008 Monmouthshire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education remains the statutory curriculum document for the teaching of religious education for all maintained and Voluntary Controlled schools across the authority. This document will remain in place until further notice and whilst the development of the curriculum for Wales is continued.

An electronic copy of the Agreed Syllabus is being provided with this newsletter.

Schools should note that the Welsh Government National Exemplar Framework for Religious Education was provided to SACREs for them to consider when writing their Agreed Syllabus and that document is not intended for use by schools.

Religious education must be provided according to the Monmouthshire Agreed Syllabus and sufficient time must be allocated to deliver the programmes of study.

Estyn Thematic Review of Religious Education

Estyn plan to carry out a thematic review of religious education provision in 2017 - 2018 and a sample of schools across Wales will be selected to take part in the review. The review will focus on the provision and quality of KS2 and KS3 RE. A separate review on the Foundation Phase will be undertaken and this will include RE alongside the other areas of learning.

Minibeast RE-Think Topic Pack Early Years Excellence Award



"RE-Think Topics Packs" are a complete resource to provide teachers with the tools to deliver, easy, meaningful and topic based RE.

Each of the topic packs comes complete with a cross-curricular topic web linking all areas of learning from either the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum for England, the Foundation Phase curriculum for Wales or the Curriculum for Excellence for schools in Scotland. At least three pupil activities (sent by email) have also been created specifically for the pack together with the particular resources (books and / or soft toys) relevant to the topic.

If you are using published schemes of work, topic packs or imaginative learning projects, be careful as often the RE is missing! You will therefore need to add RE to ensure your curriculum fulfils statutory requirements.

To support and enable teachers to make these links and provide excellent RE, Gill Vaisey (Books at Press) has identified appropriate and meaningful RE for a wide range of popular topics used in schools across the UK.

The fabulous cross-curricular Minibeast RE-Think Topic Pack has been awarded Early Years Excellence 2017 finalist by Teach Early Years Magazine.



For more details and support with linking RE to topic work go to <http://www.booksatpress.co.uk/rethinktopicpacksspage16.html>

The Bahá'í Faith – Bicentenary Celebration of Prophet Founder's Birth.

Bicentenary of the Birth of Bahá'u'lláh



**The Founder of the
Bahá'í Faith**

In October 2017 Bahá'ís all over the world will be celebrating the Bicentenary of the birth of Bahá'u'lláh, Founder of the Bahá'í Faith. Bahá'ís will be inviting the wider community to activities and special events throughout the coming months.

The Bicentenary page on the Bahá'í RE Resources for Schools website is being frequently updated with news of activities, events, class room presentations, including a short film, geared specifically towards schools to mark this special event.



<http://re.bahai.org.uk/bicentenary/>

Photo: Shrine of Bahá'u'lláh in Bahjí, near Akká, Israel

Leaflet: Warwick Bahá'í Bookshop