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Issue 1

In The News

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THE DONALDSON REVIEW - IMPLICATIONS FOR RE

The proposal for the new curriculum is that RE sits within the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience, encouraging links to the other aspects of this Area.

SACRE has considered the proposals and responded to the 'Great Debate' accordingly. We will keep a watching brief on developments as the Pioneering Schools and Practitioners begin to develop this area of the curriculum.

SACRE would welcome your views on these proposed changes to the curriculum. What is your response to RE becoming part of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience?

Please email your views to RichardWilliams@monmouthshire.gov.uk

ESTYN INSPECTION REPORTS

AND SCHOOL SELF-EVALUATION



Each term SACRE analyses school inspection reports and gleans what information it can in relation to religious education and collective worship. Since the 2010 inspection framework, this has become increasingly difficult with little or no evidence of religious education or collective worship contained within the reports. Therefore SACRE has in place a process of asking schools to provide their own evaluation of the provision of religious education and collective worship shortly after the school is inspected by Estyn. SACRE greatly appreciates schools' co-operation in this process and always responds to each school individually offering any required support or advice as identified from the self-evaluation received.

For its Autumn term meeting, SACRE is looking forward to receiving self – evaluation reports from Castle Park Primary, Pembroke Primary, Trellech Primary, Undy Primary and Mounton House. The committee will also be considering the inspection report from Bluebell Nursery.

THE NEW WELSH BACCALAUREATE AND RE



With the launch of the new Welsh Baccalaureate in September 2015, SACRE is interested to know how schools will be managing the implementation of the new qualification in their individual setting.

Whilst there are opportunities for Religious Education to contribute to some aspects of the Welsh Baccalaureate for instance through the Individual Project or the Global Citizenship Challenge, the requirement to ensure that Religious Education is a clearly identifiable aspect of the curriculum and that sufficient time is allocated to fulfil the Agreed Syllabus programmes of study remains.

As RE remains a statutory requirement at KS4 and Post 16, SACRE has a duty to monitor standards and provision. We have therefore welcomed details of how each of our secondary school RS departments are managing provision for KS4 and Post 16.

150th ANNIVERSARY OF THE SALAVATION ARMY



This year marks the 150th Anniversary of The Salvation Army. To celebrate this The Salvation Army booked the O2 in London for a variety of events from 1st - 5th July. These included bands, singing groups and dance groups from around the world. On Sunday 5th July there was a march of witness down the Mall.

Visit The Salvation Army website for more information and particularly The Salvation Army's schools/colleges website <http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/schools-religious-education> where there are some excellent teaching and learning activities available for use in schools at both primary and secondary level.

£1,000 GRANT FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS -

Cymru'n Cofio Wales Remembers 1914-1918

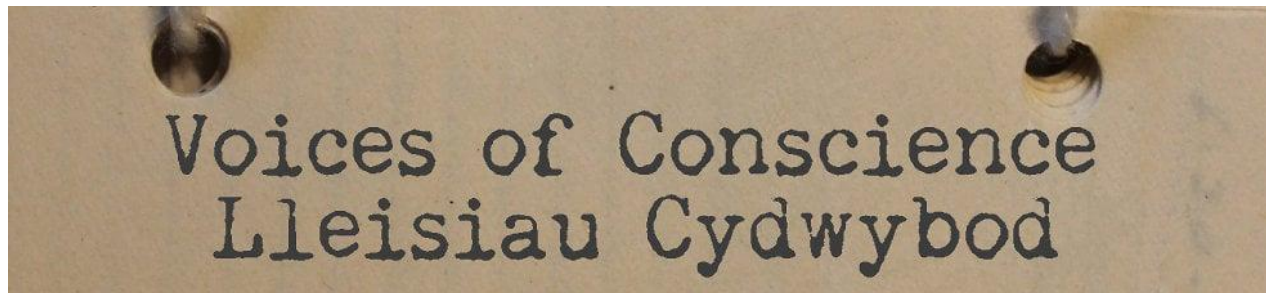


Every secondary school in Wales has the opportunity to apply to receive up to £1,000 to develop creative and innovative projects to commemorate the war.

Each school is able to decide how best they can do this, and they could also work with other schools and undertake collaborative projects. The commemorations will mark the one hundredth anniversary of the conflict and should encourage debate and discussion.

If you're interested in applying for the grant, email FWWCommemorationGrant@Wales.gsi.gov.uk to receive a grant application pack. The programme will help young people understand the events and consequences of the conflict and link with the wider commemorations of the First World War that are taking place around the World.

Cymru'n Cofio Wales Remembers 1914-1918 is the official programme which marks the centenary of the First World War in Wales. Its website provides a focal point for information on [the latest news, events, projects and signposting information on commemorative activities](#) relating to Wales between 2014 and 2018.



VOICES OF CONSCIENCE – Video stories

Much of the retelling of the history of World War I has focussed on the dreadful numbers killed and injured, and on the soldiers' experiences.

This new resource aims to explore a lesser-known aspect of World War I through the true stories of people who made a personal stand against war on grounds of conscience, and who looked for another way. The stories shed light on the World War I period, but are also relevant to contemporary society. They are particularly powerful because they allow ordinary people to tell their own stories, accompanied by photographs and illustrations.

This is a South Wales Area Meeting project of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). It is generously funded by the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, with contributions from South Wales Area Meeting, North Wales Area Meeting, Mid Wales Area Meeting, Southern Marches Area Meeting, Meeting of Friends in Wales, The Spirit of Sulien Trust, Cynefin y Werin and many local Quaker Meetings and Quaker individuals from across Wales and beyond.

<https://vimeo.com/channels/voicesofconscience>

CYMRU DROS HEDDWCH / WALES FOR PEACE

The WCIA is delighted to announce a grant of £920,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund towards a new project, Cymru dros Heddwch / Wales for Peace.



A new team have been appointed to deliver this exciting programme of activities over the next four years. Meet the team at <http://www.wcia.org.uk/walesforpeace.html>

This four-year project will explore one key question:

In the 100 years since the First World War, how has Wales contributed to the search for peace?

The aim is to engage 100,000 people in discovering, sharing and learning from the peace heritage of Wales – the people and organisations who have been part of this search, and whose stories remain largely untold.

Stories will also be linked with today's conflicts and people's current views on achieving peace, so that heritage is seen as a living, relevant story that continues to resonate today.

A wide range of activities will be organised from 2015 to 2018, falling into 5 main categories:

- Soldiers' Stories – Uncovering the Impact of War
- The Peace Builders – Discovering Wales' Hidden Histories
- Peace Now – The Legacy for Today
- Future Generations – Inspiring Young People through Heritage
- The Whole Story – Wales for Peace Exhibition

See the [Activities](#) page for what is planned in each of these categories.

The project is only just getting started, so if you'd like to be kept updated as things develop you can join the mailing list via: [please join our mailing list](#).

RE IDEAS FROM REMW

A Festivals Through The Year overview has been made available by REMW and may prove to be a useful resource which provides a reminder of some (but not all) of the important festivals from a range of faiths throughout the year.

Schools can look out for local faith community celebrations. In this issue of our SACRE News Bulletin we provide details of some local Hindu celebrations for autumn 2015. We hope this will become a feature in future issues, focussing on different faith communities each term.

AUTUMN HINDU FESTIVALS



Krishna Janamashtami Saturday, 5th September 2015

The day marks the birth anniversary of Lord Krishna. The grandest of the celebrations can be seen at Mathura and Vrindavan in India, the places where Lord Krishna had spent his childhood. Tourists and devotees from all parts of the world gather to see the festivities. On this day, Hindus across the country observe a day long fast followed by prayers. The actual festival celebrations begin the day before i.e. on saptami. Devotees observe a night long fast signifying the birth of Krishna at mid-night. Bal Krishna's image is bathed, placed in a cradle and worshiped.

This year, Lord Krishna's birthday is to be celebrated for the first time in Leicester City Centre at a joint festival in Town Hall Square and the new temple on Leicester's Granby Street.

In Cardiff, the India Centre, Sanquahar Street, will be holding an evening event rolling through to midnight.

Diwali 11th November 2015.

Diwali is called the Festival of Lights and is celebrated to honour Rama-chandra, the seventh avatar (incarnation of the god Vishnu). It is believed that on this day Rama returned to his people after 14 years of exile during which he fought and won a battle against the demons and the demon king, Ravana. People lit their houses to celebrate his victory over evil (light over darkness).

The goddess of happiness and good fortune, Lakshmi, also figures into the celebration. It is believed that she roams the earth on this day and enters the house that is pure, clean, and bright. Diwali celebrations may vary in different communities but its significance and spiritual meaning is generally "the awareness of the inner light".

Many activities and events are held in the UK to celebrate Diwali, which is known as the "Festival of Lights". Diwali is a time for spring cleaning in homes and offices. Many homes that celebrate Diwali have assorted sweets, savouries and Diwali herbs. Various lights, candles and sparklers are lit inside and outside homes.

Many people wear their finest clothes to celebrate Diwali. Many women wearing jewelry and silk outfits and some have *mehendi*, which is a temporary henna decoration, on their palms. Many Indian businesses see Diwali as a day to start the new financial year because of Diwali's ties with Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth.

Many cities throughout the United Kingdom celebrate the Diwali festival with firework displays, dances, plays, street lighting, Diwali lanterns, traditional Indian food, and music.

The India Centre, Cardiff will host Diwali celebrations between 11th to 15th November. Look out for more specific timings on their website.

VISITS TO A MOSQUE

The mosque in Blaina is pleased to receive visits from schools.

Dr Muzafar Jilani can arrange visits to the mosque or visits to school.

He can be contacted on 01873 855565 or by email m.jilani733@btinternet.com

Berea Masjid
Berea Cottages,
Blaina,
Blaenau Gwent
NP13 3AD



Alternatively, the Muslim Council of Wales can be contacted to arrange an educational visit to a mosque. They will discuss the possibilities with the school and advise of the nearest mosque that can provide an appropriate visit. They have a group of volunteers who are at hand to show pupils around the mosque facilities and also to do a short talk on Islam and answer questions related to the particular aspect of Islam being studied. All volunteers used undertake a DBS/ CRB check.

For further information and to arrange a visit please contact:

Nahida Begum (Executive Assistant to Saleem Kidwai OBE, KFO, FRSA Secretary General Muslim Council of Wales)

Tel: 029 2048 7667 extension 214

Email: nahida@muslimcouncilwales.org.uk

MUSLIM FOOTBALLERS IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE – Free D ROM

(Raising the attainment of boys in RE)

This excellent unit of work for KS3 has been produced by Mary Parry, RE Adviser for Carmarthenshire. It challenges pupils to consider and reflect upon the impact of belief on an individual's life – in this case how the beliefs of some Muslim footballers influence their lives. The CD ROM contains comprehensive teaching notes and suggested activities together with powerpoint material and video clips. CD ROMS will be sent to schools in the autumn term. We are most grateful to Mary Parry for sharing this resource with schools across Wales.

VIDEO CLIPS – MY LIFE AS A MUSLIM

A very useful series of six digital stories created by Muslim children aged 6-13 from Cardiff for use in the classroom and suitable for all ages is freely available on-line at <http://vimeo.com/channels/learningtobeamuslim>

BBC KEY STAGE 2 RESOURCES



New RE programmes were recently broadcast by the BBC 2 in March 2015.

The five programmes, one each on Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Judaism and Hinduism are half an hour long. Lat Blaylock (a key figure in the RE world) has been involved in their production. The BBC will not sell these programmes on DVDs but they will be available on BBC Clips if you have missed recording the broadcasts.

ARTEFACT LOAN SERVICE

Following the closure of the Schools' Library Service the comprehensive collection of Monmouthshire's RE Artefacts is now located at five schools around the county. Whilst there is no formal system for loaning the resources, informal arrangements can be made by contacting the host schools on an individual basis. Schools hoisting the resources are: Crosh Ash Primary, Goytre Fawr Primary, Llantilio Pertholey VC Primary, Undy Primary and Osbaston VC Primary.

VISITORS FROM FAITH COMMUNITIES

Monmouthshire SACRE is privileged to have a wonderful group of faith representatives on its committee who are willing to visit schools to talk about aspects of their faith with pupils. Many of you will have met several of our faith representatives on the Secondary School hosted RE Days. Some of those involved in the days may be willing to provide a similar workshop within your school. If you would like the up to date list of contacts please do request this by email from Gill Vaisey gill_press@hotmail.com

RE NEWS



Newyddion **Addysg Grefyddol**
Religious Education News



The previously published magazine RE News is now available freely from <http://www.religious-education-wales.org/> and is a good resource to keep up to date with developments and good practice in RE across Wales.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

We would greatly value your feedback on this SACRE News Bulletin and to know if you would like this form of sharing news and resources to be continued.

In addition, if you have any news of items that you would like to share to support other teachers, please do send us details to include in any future News Bulletins.

Feedback and future items should be sent to Gill Vaisey at gill_press@hotmail.com