

Heads of RE,  
All Secondary Schools

May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2017

Dear Colleagues

SACRE would like to inform you of the support that is being made available to schools with the implementation of the revised Religious Studies GCSE specifications to be taught from September 2017.

As reported in the last News Bulletin, the EAS have appointed two GCSE lead practitioners in Religious Studies to support schools with this implementation. They are Rhian Davies of King Henry VIII School, Monmouthshire and Clare Lane of Ebbw Fawr Learning Community, Blaenau Gwent.

A network meeting has been organized by the GCSE lead practitioners for **28<sup>th</sup> June, 2017 at King Henry VIII School in Abergavenny, NP7 6EP**. It will run from 2-4pm. Some of the items on the agenda for discussion include:

1. Discussion of options that schools have chosen with perhaps the grouping of schools together who have chosen the same religion combination so that they can support each other.
2. Preparation of SAMS to create a bank of SAMS materials to share such as a selection of papers and mark schemes that can be used as examples, tests, assessments etc
3. Tracking progress by discussing mechanisms to track progress and identify underachievement
4. Cost effectiveness by going paperless, as far as possible. Consideration of creation of our own resources e.g. Hinduism text book, as WJEC does not include Hinduism
5. Specified texts activities, similar to the SAMS activity above, to provide activities to help students understand and apply the specified texts.
6. Schemes of Learning – layout, sharing of ideas, division of tasks to create schemes of learning.

There is also an intention for the Lead Practitioners to provide in-school support. The detail of this process is yet to be worked out and will be discussed at the meeting.

The intention of the lead practitioners is to try to address the needs of schools and would welcome any ideas and suggestions from colleagues. For further information about enrolment and course details please contact Clare Lane by email on [clane@ebbwfawr.co.uk](mailto:clane@ebbwfawr.co.uk)

SACRE welcomes such support to schools at this very important time and would encourage schools to take advantage of this opportunity for support and advice in preparation for implementation in September 2017.

Yours sincerely

Gill Vaisey  
RE Consultant to SACRE