

## **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education**

**9 July 2014**

### **7. RE News Update.**

#### **Purpose of Report**

1. To update SACRE about national RE news, events and issues.

#### **Background**

##### **2. GCSE and A Level reform**

The National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE) and The Religious Education Council (REC) are delighted that the Department for Education has accepted the case for the reform of GCSE and A level examinations in the subject on the same timescale as EBacc subjects such as History and Geography, with first teaching from 2016. One of the recommendations of the REC Review (2013) was to “promote coherence and progression between 4-14 programmes of study and 14-19 public examinations” and this reform is an ideal opportunity to work towards that aim. **Read the full NATRE and REC statement here:** <http://retoday.org.uk/news/comment-on-gcse-and-a-level-reform-in-religious-studies>

The Qualifications Committee of the RE Council are currently revising the criteria for the GCSE and A-level specifications, prior to them being approved by the DfE and Ofqual, and then sent to exam boards who will use them to design their new exam specifications.

##### **3. Progress 8 and ‘facilitating subjects’**

A reminder that NATRE produce papers supporting secondary teachers, including one on the new GCSE measure for schools – progress in the best eight GCSE subjects including RE/RS, arguing for the value of full course GCSE RE for all students  
<http://tinyurl.com/ns22rlb>

And one on the ‘myth of facilitating subjects’  
<http://tinyurl.com/nx454xe>

##### **4. Expert Advisory Group**

In line with the DfE resources supporting other examination subjects, RE has its own expert advisory

groups (EAG) for RE, convened by the REC. They met in May to look at how to support the development of RE CPD and resources, based on the findings of the REC Review. <http://tinyurl.com/q4oc5hq>

The group will advise on:

- Assessment, pedagogies and strategies for delivering learning and teaching in RE.
- Focus, content and progression within the curriculum.

It will also:

- link with training and resources at all levels
- include SEN and disability
- take account of current research
- link with developments at GCSE.

## **5. RE on Twitter**

Most recent twitter chats on RE [#REchatUK](#) took place on Monday 2 June 2014 8 - 9pm. Catch up on the discussion on 'Creative approaches to RE' at <http://sfy.co/qwzp>; also **Monday 7 July 8 - 9pm.** (Email Stephen Pett for link to this discussion)

## **6. NATRE New to RE support for secondary NQTs**

NATRE has started offering 25 places for a 3-year programme of support. <http://retoday.org.uk/news/new-to-re-find-the-best-support-for-your-start-here>

## **7. NATRE teacher survey 2014**

For the last four years, NATRE have surveyed secondary schools in England to assess the impact of government policy on RE. The fifth survey is now up and running. The more schools who complete the survey, from as wide a range of school types as possible, the more effective NATRE's campaign will be to fight for clear, specific changes to coalition policy on RE. Deadline is 25 July. [www.surveymonkey.com/s/impactRE2014](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/impactRE2014)

## **Recommendation**

## **8. SACRE is recommended to note this update report.**

