



RE-NEWS

**Volume 2,
Issue 3**

January 2006

So what's new for 2006?

New Year - New Conference

Following last year's very successful inaugural RE Subject Leaders' conference we are pleased to give you early notification of this year's event. The conference will be held at Dewsbury Minster on October 5th 2006. This year the theme will be: **Film, Fiction and Faith: starting points for RE?**

To enable delegates to get the maximum benefit from the workshops we have decided, on this occasion, to limit numbers to 60. If you want to be sure of a place, please return the booking form attached to this newsletter **as soon as possible**

New Professional Development Opportunities

The focus of inspections, whether carried out under Section 5 (OFSTED) or Section 48(SIAS), will be the verification of school self evaluation. In 2006, two new courses have been devised to support schools in the development of appropriate self evaluation processes in Religious Education and Collective Worship. The courses will be led by Eileen Bellett and will be held at Bishopthorpe Palace - the home of the Archbishop of York:

Dates for your diary:

May 18th - Self evaluation and Collective Worship

June 15th - Self Evaluation and Religious Education

Both courses are filling up very quickly so please book early. There are further details on the Wakefield Diocesan website at www.wakefield.anglican.org or further details can be obtained from Suzanne Parkes at s.parkes@yorks.j.ac.uk

In addition to the key festival dates usually known to RE subject leaders – January 15th 2006 has been declared World Religions Day – you might just have time to organize a creative celebration?!

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New from QCA

Every year QCA publish an annual report on the various subjects of the curriculum. The annual report for RE (2004/05) has just been published and makes interesting reading. If you want to read the full report you can download it from: <http://www.qca.org.uk/254.html>.

However the following summary offers a quick insight into the state of RE as we begin the new year:

Summary of key findings

Strengths

- ◆ The profile of RE has been raised through the development of the non-statutory national framework for RE.
- ◆ The number of students taking GCSE and A level religious studies examinations has increased to record levels
- ◆ RE has a positive role in promoting respect for all and combating prejudice.
- ◆ The subject contributes to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- ◆ The number of schools not complying with statutory requirements in RE has fallen (although non-compliance remains an issue).
- ◆ Standards and achievement in RE at GCSE and A level have risen.
- ◆ Use of the 8-level scale in assessing pupils' learning has increased.

Areas for development

- ◆ Standards and achievement at key stages 1-3 remain lower than in most subjects.
- ◆ Greater deployment of, and support for, non-specialist teachers in RE is needed, particularly at key stage 3
- ◆ The monitoring of the RE curriculum, particularly in primary schools, is underdeveloped
- ◆ Use of ICT in RE could be more effective, particularly in secondary schools
- ◆ The overall quality of assessment in the subject needs addressing, particularly in terms of improving learning
- ◆ The level of non-compliance in post-16 RE is high.

New Units of Work?

Following the publication of the National Non - Statutory Framework for RE (October 2004), QCA will publish 12 exemplar units of work. **These units will not in themselves constitute an RE Syllabus and will not replace either the diocesan or the LEA syllabus.** When they become available - RE subject leaders may however find the units to be a useful additional resource. **Watch this space...**