

REView June 2015

National News

Strictly RE

Over 170 teachers and professionals of Religious Education (RE) from across UK attended the 'Strictly RE', The National Association of Teachers of RE's (NATRE) first-ever national conference, on the 31st January 2015 at the Grand Connaught Rooms in London.

'Strictly RE' was designed to inspire and equip teachers and professionals of RE with knowledge, techniques and resources on how to deliver excellent RE, through key note speakers, a choice of over 16 interactive and thought provoking seminars, as well as opportunities to collaborate and share best practices with peers.

Key notes on the day were delivered by Trevor Cooling, Professor of Christian Education at Canterbury Christ Church University, who discussed 'Interesting times - where are we going in RE?' and **Dilwyn Hunt**, Independent RE Adviser, who spoke about 'RE and assessment without levels?'

Religious Education Classes 'Needed' in Schools

The BBC featured an article on the 2015 Strictly RE Conference and the importance of RE. Developing young people's "religious literacy" would help to make them less vulnerable to radicalisation, a conference will hear later.

"Good religious education has never been more needed," Ed Pawson, chairman of the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education, will say.

But pupils will miss out unless the government addresses a shortage of RE teachers, he will warn.

The government said training bursaries would help to recruit more RE staff.

To read the whole article click [Religious education classes 'needed' in schools](#) here.

RE Regional Pilot

Based on Recommendation 4 of the 2013 Review of RE, the REC, NATRE and Culham St Gabriel's have launched the RE Regional pilot to work towards more robust arrangements for training and supporting teachers of RE across the country. There are now 13 RE hubs supported by CSTG and several operating independently or in partnerships with universities and NATRE, which are developing their own regional strategies, adapted and suited to their own professional development priorities; we hope that this exciting initiative will lead to real, grass-roots improvements in the quality of RE.

New Items on the RE Council Website

MPs publicise their support for high quality RE: Sixteen MPs from across the main political parties took part in an All Party Parliamentary Group event to publicise their belief that good RE should be available for all young people.

Following the election the APPG has now lost its leader Stephen Lloyd. We await news of a successor.

Carter Report on Initial Teacher Training published

The Carter Report on Initial Teacher Training has now been published following a consultation to which the REC contributed. It makes a series of recommendations and Secretary of State Nicky Morgan has made an initial response. The government will commission an independent working group made up of expert representatives from the sector to develop a core ITT framework; RE professionals have long recognised the need for this. The REC will seek proper representation of RE on the

working group to try to make sure all trainees receive adequate preparation for teaching RE.

Teach:RE course

Culham St Gabriel's are delighted to announce a 'bulk buy' offer for universities who would like ITT students to undertake the TeachRE course. Please contact kathryn@cstg.org.uk for more information about this offer. In addition, a PowerPoint presentation about the course is now available to view and use at www.teachre.co.uk

3forRE

This scheme to support those undertaking a master's degree with an RE focus still has a very small number of places available for 2014-15. Please see www.cstg.org.uk/grants/3forre for more information.

'Energising RE 2015'

Culham St Gabriel's are hosting a free Conference for RE teachers, taking place on 3-4 October 2015 at Wokefield Park, Reading. The theme of the conference will be 'Energising RE: Learning from our successes | collaborating for improvement'. For more information, visit the **Culham St Gabriel's website**.

Aims:

Informing good practice: Using research to deepen understanding of how religion and belief are changing in the UK, and the impact of this on RE;

Building strong strategies: Understanding how RE is developing and where its future could lie;

Sharing good work: Strengthening collaborative networks focused on improving standards in RE.

To Register

Complete our online registration form to apply. Priority will be given to people who have not previously attended a Wokefield RE Conference.

2015 Spirited Arts competition

NATRE's 12th Annual 'Art in Heaven' Competition 2015.

Five themes to choose from ~ create using drawing, painting, art, video, sculpture or other media. 30+ prizes and web uploads for winners and commended entries Supported by NATRE and RE Today.

Find out this year's themes and download the booking form. Check out our gallery to get inspired.

All schools are invited to submit an entry to NATRE's 2015 Spirited Arts competition, which is well underway, with entries coming in from primary and secondary schools. There is still time to take part, so visit the **NATRE website** and get your entry in before the 31 July 2015.

RE Today professional development webinars

RE Today has new online seminars.

.**This terms secondary webinar** is on '**Promoting British Values; the Rule of Law**', for teachers who want to find out what the new non-statutory duty to 'promote fundamental British values as part of SMSC' mean for the RE classroom.

'The Islamic Belief System'

The Al Khoei Foundation welcomes a new publication about Islam. After several years of research by a group of scholars under the direction of Dr M A Shomali, Director of the Islamic Centre England a book called *Islamic Belief System* (ISBN: 978-1904934233) has just been published by the Institute of Islamic Studies,

affiliated to Islamic Centre of England. This book comes in seven units and 240 colour pages with lots of learning activities explaining the fundamental tenets of the Muslim faith in plain and lucid language.

NB The Oxford Foundation

The Oxford Foundation was set up by Imam Monawar Hussain who read theology at Oxford and trained as an Imam under Shaykh dr Zaki Badawi KBE at the Muslim College. He was also the first Muslim Tutor at Eton. More information can be found on the Oxford Foundation website.

Hockerill Educational Foundation grants open

We are now accepting applications for grants for the 2015-16 Academic year. If you know of any colleagues who are intending to follow a teaching career in RE (Primary and Secondary), either studying currently and on a two or three year course, or who will be starting their course in September then please direct them to our website at www.hockerillfoundation.org.uk for further details, guidance and an application form. The first closing date is 31 March 2015.

News from the Hindu Council UK

The Hindu Council UK took part in a Q&A session on Hinduism at a boys' school as part of their provisions of resources on Hinduism. The themes and topics of the questions included: hereditary Caste systems, Nazis and the Swastika, the role of temples, the importance of Gita, and the risks attached to an evolving religion like Hinduism. Jay Lakhani's responses to and discussion of these questions have been uploaded to YouTube, and can be viewed on the Hindu Council UK Youtube channel

NASACRE

The NASACRE annual conference took place in Birmingham on Thursday 21st May. Charles Clarke was the keynote speaker.

Charles Clarke was instrumental in setting up the Non- Statutory Framework when he was in Government. He says that although he is professor of politics and faith he is not himself a man of faith but has always been keen to address the issues of RE in schools. Clarke alongside Linda Woodhead at Lancaster University have just written a book on finding a settlement for RE and Collective Worship. The book was published on June 15th and explores whether the legal requirements for both RE and Collective Worship are still relevant today with the changes to Local Authorities and the different types of schools. He believes that there is a greater need for RE than ever before.

(See attached conclusions and recommendations)

Charles Clarke also discussed whether RE should in fact be part of the National Curriculum and that it should be properly resourced with Ofsted inspecting it.

He also praised the role of SACREs

There were also questions from the floor about SACREs not being quorate and the difficulties that some Las face in recruiting members. There was also an issue raised about the Church of England representatives and their role and attendance at meetings.

There was general agreement about the importance of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development

Local News

There have been several successful courses held this financial year

Thursday 19th March at the Hydro Hotel Eastbourne:

Effective RE Subject Leadership

There were 31 participants

23rd April Network Meeting Robsackwood Primary School

Shavuot and Pentecost

There were 7 participants

Wednesday 29th April at Deans Place: *Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development and Promoting British Values*

This course was oversubscribed. There were 33 participants.

Future Courses 2015

Thursday 8th October at Deans Place: *Teaching Judaism and Islam in the Primary School*

Moving Forward in RE

East Sussex RE Conference

Plans are in place for East Sussex to hold another joint RE Conference with Brighton and Hove this Autumn. The keynote speaker will be **Dilwyn Hunt** (See above)

The conference will be on November 5th. The venue will be Dean's Place, Alfriston.

Please keep this date in your diary