

Somerset SACRE

Diocesan report February 2024

## **Introduction**

Our support continues for individual Somerset schools in terms of RE through requests for advice, school visits, staff meetings and our CPD offer. Increasingly we are working with Trusts and encouraging a coherent, shared approach to RE in their schools.

## **SIAMS inspections**

To date 14 Somerset Schools have had their SIAMS inspection this academic year. None have been judged **not** to be living out their foundation as a church school (J1) (No more grades i.e Excellent, good, RI or Inadequate)

Examples of comments about RE (extracted from the whole text):

'The quality of RE teaching is good, with a gently reflective approach evident. The age-appropriate curriculum stimulates thinking and personal spiritual development. Assessment is used to identify difficult areas and as a result it informs future planning. However there is little understanding of Christianity as a multicultural world faith.' (small VA First School)

'Pupils understand the effect that religion might have on people's lives. Pupils readily display clear and confident knowledge of Christianity and other world faiths, for instance they easily express an appreciation of the Sikh message of equality before God, arising from the Sikh approach to hospitality for all.' (VC Primary)

## **Curriculum Symposium**

Two members of the Diocesan Education Team attended and found it hugely interesting and enjoyable. One of our team is looking forward to being part of the working party looking at the Agreed Syllabus Review.

## **LTLRE**

Not much to report. We continue to support the hubs and look for suitable RE leaders in schools to develop their skills by leading a hub. We actively encourage RE teachers to join their nearest hub, or any hub that is online.

## **CPD**

- 'Help, I've been given RE' in October
- Collective worship in November
- Spirituality in Schools in January
- SIAMS forum in February
- **RE Conference in Flourish House, Wells.** Speaker Adam Robinson, former teacher in Bristol, adviser to Bristol SACRE, trainer with RE Today, now working on the Oak

Academy RE curriculum '**Challenging, Relevant and Diverse RE**', focussing on Islam, Judaism and Hinduism.

Whole day plus lunch – all welcome. Please spread the word, there are plenty of available places. Booking details below'

<https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/schools/education-training-and-support/>

Pauline Dodds