

SACRE

NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council

Newsletter for the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education for Northumberland



CONTENTS

- HMD at Cragside CE Primary School, Cramlington
- The Islamic Diversity Centre North-East:
a resource to assist schools teach about Islam
- As the weather improves, trips to houses
of worship will increase in number!
- RE CPD, anyone?!?
- Has your school considered becoming
a School of Sanctuary?
- Bothal Primary braves the snow
for a synagogue visit!
- The SACRE members



HMD at Cragside CE Primary School, Cramlington

Cragside Church of England Primary School in Cramlington marks Holocaust Memorial Day annually. We firmly believe in the importance of teaching our children about the Holocaust to embed some of our school values such as tolerance, liberty, respect and empathy, and also to help them to empathise with current events around the world.

Both Key Stage acts of collective worship were focused around this year's theme of "The Power of Words". We discussed fairness and equality, and how powerful words can be in both a positive and a negative way. Our Year 6 children looked at Anne Frank's Diary and discussed how it would feel to have to hide. They made comparisons to the current difficulties in Syria and thought about how the fleeing refugees feel. During English lessons they made links to the

beautifully written book "The Journey" by Francesca Sanna, which helps the children to empathise and understand some of the difficulties and emotions that refugees face

One of our Year 6 girls was so taken aback by the atrocities of the Holocaust that she went home and made a fact file, independently researching the events leading up to and during the war. She also focused on some of the stories of survivors and heroes of the Holocaust.

Here are some things written by one of our pupils:

The Holocaust is one of the most terrible events in human history. It occurred during world war two when Hitler was leader of Germany. Six million Jewish people were murdered by the Nazis. This included at least a million Jewish children. Millions of other people that Hitler did not like were also murdered.

Hitler hated Jewish people and blamed them for Germany losing world war one. He considered Jewish people to be less than human. Hitler also believed in the superiority of the Aryan race. He wanted to create a race of perfect people.

On 9th November 1938, many Jewish homes and businesses were burnt down or vandalised. This night was called Kristallnacht, or Night of Broken Glass.

During world war two, when the Nazis would take over a city in Europe, they would force all of the Jewish people into one area. This area was called a ghetto and was fenced in with barbed wire and guarded. There was little food, water or medicine available. It was also very crowded with many families sometimes sharing a single room.

All Jewish people were eventually to be brought to concentration camps. People were forced to do hard labour. The weak were quickly killed or died of starvation. The concentration camps were horrible places.

Many Jewish people hid from the Nazis during the war. They would hide with non-Jewish families. Sometimes they would pretend to be part of the family and sometimes they would hide in a basement or attic. Some Jewish people were able to escape across the border into a free country, but many hid for years, sometimes in the same room.

"Schindler's List" tells the story of Oskar Schindler, a German businessman who managed to save the lives of over a thousand Jewish people who worked in factories.



Joanne Pringle

Year 2 class teacher

RE, Languages and International Co-ordinator
Cragside CE Primary School

The Islamic Diversity Centre North-East: a resource to assist schools teach about Islam

The SACRE was pleased to welcome Mariam Khan as its Muslim representative in January 2018. Among other things, Mariam is the education officer at the Islamic Diversity Centre North-East (IDC), so it seemed appropriate to introduce the IDC to you because it may well provide schools in the County with an excellent reference point for all things Muslim, especially given that the County's long-standing relationship with the Newcastle University Islamic Society Mosque and the incomparable Mahmoud Kurdi came to an end in 2017 for reasons beyond our control!

The IDC is a regional organisation and registered charity that was established in Newcastle in 2002. The IDC's goal is simple: to bring to the wider community authentic information, advice and guidance in the areas of Islamic awareness, diversity and consultancy through education and awareness.

The IDC is the only full-time dedicated organisation to represent, teach and educate about Islam and Muslims in the North-East. It is committed to representing the pure teachings of Islam in response to many of the myths and misconceptions that are commonly held. In addition to raising awareness, its activities are designed to reduce the fear and suspicion that the wider community may have about its Muslim neighbours.

The IDC can offer first-hand, authentic information about Islam and Muslims in the UK through its highly regarded and interactive assemblies and workshop sessions.

Through the workshops, etc. in schools and colleges, and the mosque visits the IDC can arrange, it is possible to promote better awareness of Islam and Muslims. Thus, the IDC can promote peace and harmony as well as community cohesion through education.



The IDC can focus on:

- Basic Muslim beliefs and practices
- The Five Pillars of Islam
- Common misconceptions about Islam and Muslims
- Women in Islam
- Jihad and terrorism
- Islamophobia
- Hot topics and myth-busting
- Interactive question and answer sessions

The IDC can arrange a mosque visit with one of our partnership mosques, where pupils/students/staff/parents, etc. can tour the mosque, observe the prayer ritual and understand basic beliefs and practices.

For more information, visit the IDC website at idcnortheast.org and to find out more precisely how the IDC can support you, write to info@idcnortheast.org.

As the weather improves, trips to houses of worship will increase in number!

One of the things that impresses the SACRE is how often schools in Northumberland arrange visits to houses of worship, both in the County and further afield, even though such visits take a lot of planning and often incur considerable expense, especially when coach hire is factored in. But we all know such visits are worth at least a dozen lessons in the classroom, so we hope they remain popular for many years to come!

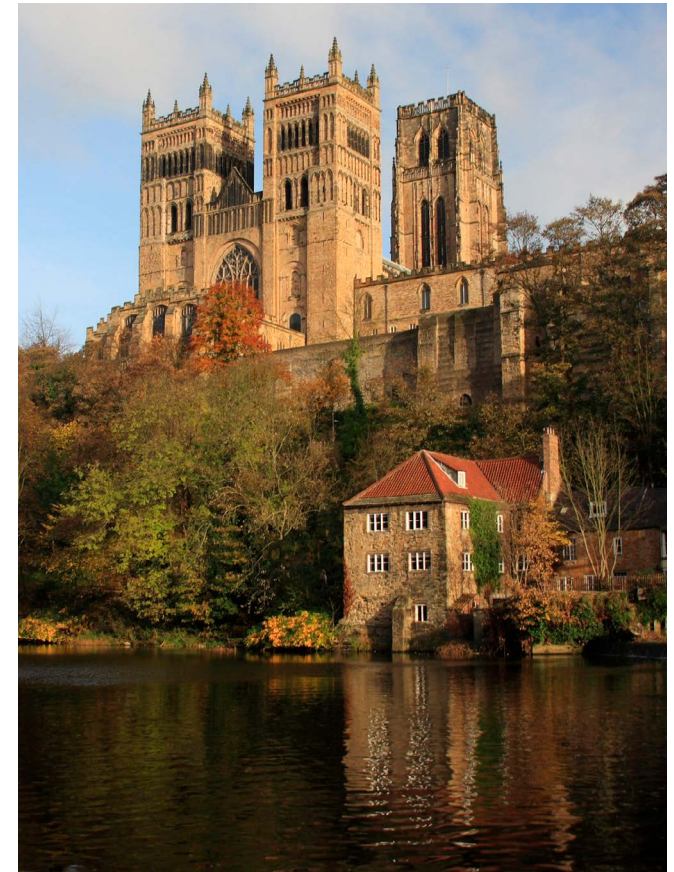
As many of you know, the Guidance section of the RE Agreed Syllabus lists many houses of worship (and, indeed, other places) that can be visited to enhance RE provision, and the list of places to visit is prefaced with the following helpful advice:

Well before a planned visit (four to six weeks), make contact with the place concerned. Allow plenty of time to agree a date, time, etc. convenient to everyone involved. Remember that some places have many groups already making visits, so, if possible, have more than one date for when you wish to attend. Also remember that some of the places have only one or two people who host the visits, and that such hosting is often done voluntarily when other duties and responsibilities allow. While many of the places welcome groups free of charge, do check that a fee or donation is NOT required. Where a fee or donation is NOT required, bear in mind that your hosts are giving of their time freely and/or providing groups with light refreshments, so, at the very least, a charitable donation would be appropriate. Also check about dress conventions. Some places require visitors to remove their shoes, and some require visitors to cover their heads (sometimes everyone, sometimes only males, sometimes only females). If heads must be covered, confirm what constitutes an acceptable headcovering when arranging the date and time of the visit.

As you can see, flexibility and forward planning will work to your advantage. We are confident that at all the places you will receive a warm welcome and have an enlightening visit.

To the above we would add that many places prefer the group to not exceed a certain size (30 to 40 people is a popular cut-off point, but some houses of worship are happy to host up to 70 people at a time), and a few may suggest that very young children will not benefit from a visit (the latter does NOT apply to most of the Dharmic houses of worship that schools visit). Also, try not to arrange two or more visits too closely together: as a rule, potential hosts find it easier to arrange their diaries if a school wanting more than one visit can spread the visits over an extended period of time.

By planning well ahead, being flexible and clarifying everything on the phone/by email well BEFORE a visit, everything will work smoothly. And who knows? The next visit you make to a house of worship or a supermarket, etc. meeting the needs of a particular faith group might feature in a future edition of the SACRE Newsletter!



“...flexibility and forward planning will work to your advantage...”

RE CPD, anyone?!?

One of the most heartening things about last Autumn's RE Conference at Choppington has been that the number of requests for RE Continuing Professional Development (CPD) has risen considerably. Workshop leaders who strutted their stuff that sunny Autumn day have visited about ten schools to contribute to twilight as well as half-day CPD sessions.

The sessions have addressed specific religions and secular worldviews (beliefs and practices have been examined, as have possible teaching and learning activities for pupils and students), the structure/layout/content of the RE Agreed Syllabus, the statutory components of the RE Agreed Syllabus, long-term planning for RE, using key questions to shape the

content of RE long-term plans and making the most of visits to houses of worship. There have even been opportunities to reflect on how best to examine the fundamental British values, extremism, radicalisation and terrorism, thereby addressing the Prevent Agenda, among other things.

If some RE CPD appeals to you, perhaps because not much has taken place recently or there are many new faces in the staffroom, in the first instance contact Phil André at phil.andre@ntlworld.com who, if unable to provide the CPD himself, will direct you toward people who can!

Has your school considered becoming a School of Sanctuary?

The SACRE is delighted to hear from different sources that schools in Northumberland have done an excellent job settling in and meeting the care and education needs of refugee and asylum seeking pupils and students, pupils and students of Syrian origin included. But have such schools, or schools with a determination to provide a safe and welcoming haven for everyone, considered becoming a School of Sanctuary?

Although there are now Schools of Sanctuary in many parts of the country including Newcastle, Middlesbrough, County Durham, Stockton and Northern Ireland, our information suggests that there is yet to be one in Northumberland.

A School of Sanctuary is a school committed to being a safe and welcoming place for all, especially those seeking sanctuary. Sanctuary could apply to people whose lives were in danger in their own country, who have troubles at home or are just looking for a space of safety.

A School of Sanctuary is a school that helps its pupils, students, staff and the wider community to understand what it means to seek sanctuary, and it extends a welcome to everyone as equal, valued members of the school community. It is a school proud to be a place of safety and inclusion for all.

There are three simple principles to being a School of Sanctuary:

1. Learn about what it means to seek sanctuary.
2. Take positive action to embed concepts of welcome, safety and inclusion within your school and the wider community.
3. Share your vision and achievements - be proud of what you have achieved!



To find out more about School of Sanctuary, access this excellent website: schools.cityofsanctuary.org From the home page follow the links to “Why become a School of Sanctuary?”, “How can my school get involved?” and “Resources”, all of which provide teachers, etc. with inspiration. The links also reveal that to secure School of Sanctuary status is not a particularly onerous task, especially if, as is the case with many Northumberland schools, commitments to equality, diversity, inclusion and community cohesion are already apparent.

Someone associated with the SACRE has already helped schools in other parts of the North-East secure School of Sanctuary status, so, if you want to discuss this exciting opportunity with him, contact Phil André (phil.andre@ntlworld.com).

It would be wonderful if, in six months’ time, the SACRE Newsletter could report on a school in the County that has secured School or Sanctuary status or was working toward it.

“A School of Sanctuary is a school committed to being a safe and welcoming place for all...”

Bothal Primary braves the snow for a synagogue visit!

On Tuesday, 27th February 2018, a group of hardy Year 4s from Bothal Primary braved the snowy conditions to visit the Orthodox Synagogue in Gosforth, Newcastle. The treacherous conditions could not dampen our spirits, as we enjoyed a spirited bus ride to the venue, where we checked we knew our key Jewish vocabulary and the boys adorned their baseball caps to mark their respects. We couldn't wait to get there!

When we arrived, we were split into two groups. The first group stayed in the main hall and learned all about the Mezuzah and the upcoming Jewish festival of Purim. We used the coloured pencils and clipboards we brought to create our own characters taking part in the festival. We then swapped groups, and the children learned to read Hebrew from right to left, and all about the local Rabbi Aaron. We were then excited by the themed Mezuzahs on show – particularly the ones of our favourite football teams and Angry Birds! One of our lucky pupils even got dressed up in Jewish clothing!

We couldn't believe how fast time went, but we had to get back on the bus to Ashington so we could be in school for lunch. A huge thank you to Deanna Van Der Velde and her team of volunteers who kindly let us into their place of worship for the morning.

The children agreed that they'd thoroughly enjoyed the visit. "We got to see the Torah scrolls, and some of the boys got to try on kippas. It was fantastic." Another added, "We learned that in Hebrew there are no vowels – we all had lots of fun!"

We look forward to returning later this month with our Year 2s, and in April when our remaining Year 4s and Year 2s visit.



"...the children learned to read Hebrew from right to left, and all about the local Rabbi Aaron..."

John Rayner

RE Co-ordinator,
Bothal Primary School

[View contents page](#)

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Forthcoming Festivals/Commemorations

11 - 12 April	Yom Ha-Shoah/Holocaust Day	(Jewish)	18 June	Dragon Boat Festival	(Chinese)
13 April	Lailat-al-Miraj	(Muslim)	21 June	Midsummer Solstice	(Pagan/Druid/Wicca)
14 April	Baisakhi	(Sikh)	21 June	World Humanist Day	(Humanist)
21 April - 2 May	Ridvan	(Bahai)	5 July	Birthday of Guru Hargobind	(Sikh)
23 April	St. George's Day	(National)	9 July	Anniversary of the Martyrdom of the Bab	(Bahai)
30 April	Lailat-al-Bara'a/Barat	(Muslim)	28 July	Dharma Day	(Buddhist)
1 May	Beltane	(Pagan)	15 August	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	(Christian)
10 May	Ascension	(Christian)	21 - 24 August	Eid-ul-Adha	(Muslim)
13 - 19 May	Christian Aid Week	(Christian)	25 August	Hungry Ghosts Festival	(Chinese)
15 May - 14 June	Ramadan	(Muslim)	26 August	Raksha Bandhan	(Hindu)
19 - 21 May	Shavuot	(Jewish)	1 September	New Liturgical Year	(Orthodox Christian)
20 May	Pentecost	(Christian)	3 September	Krishna Janmashtami	(Hindu)
23 May	Anniversary of the Declaration of the Bab	(Bahai)	7 - 14 September	Paryushana	(Jain)
25 May	St. Bede the Venerable	(Christian)	9 - 11 September	Rosh Hashanah	(Jewish)
29 May	Wesak/Visakha Puja (Buddha Day)	(Buddhist)	11 September	Ethiopian New Year	(Rastafarian)
10 June	Lailat-al-Qadr	(Muslim)	11 September	Al-Hijra	(Muslim)
15 June	Eid-ul-Fitr	(Muslim)	12 - 23 September	Ganesh Chaturthi	(Hindu)
16 June	Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev	(Sikh)			

P.S. Anyone seeking to identify the dates for additional festivals and/or commemorations from April to early September should access the many lists available on the internet. Some of the best such lists (in terms of inclusiveness and accuracy) derive from the BBC and RE:Online. The Shap Working Party on World Religion also produces a very good list, but the list must be purchased whether in hard or electronic form.

The SACRE members

Committee A: Other Faiths

Bhakti Rasa Adhikara: Hinduism

Mrs. J. Cousin: Roman Catholic Church

Reverend E. H. Marley, OBE: United Reformed Church (URC)

Represented by the URC: Baptist Church

Represented by the URC: Methodist Church
(SE Northumberland Ecumenical Area)

Harpal Singh: Sikhism

Mrs. D. Van der Velde: Judaism

Committee B: Church of England

Mrs. E. Bainbridge

Mr. C. Hudson

Mr. P. Rusby

Reverend J. Scott

Committee C: Teaching Associations/Unions

Mr. M. Davidson (secondary/high school teacher)

Mr. A. Duffield (middle school teacher)

Miss F. Gannon (secondary/high school teacher)

Mr. T. Nicholls (secondary/high school teacher)

Mrs. H. Shaw (special school teacher, retired)

Committee D: Local Authority

Councillor B. Crosby

Councillor W. Daley

Councillor B. Pidcock, MBE

Councillor T. Thorne

Co-opted Representatives

Mr. S. Dearlove: North-East Humanists

Maddy Wardingham (special school teacher)

Observer (representing the academies and free schools)

Steve Gibson of Northumberland CE Academy

Local Authority Officers in Attendance

Phil André, Part-time RE Consultant

David Cookson, Commissioner for Secondary Education and Sixth Forms

Andrea Todd, Clerk to the SACRE, Democratic Services

