

Work soon begins on the new RE Agreed Syllabus...

...so we would love to hear your thoughts about the existing one and how it can be improved.

The current syllabus has three components, one that defines what the statutory content must be, one that contains the units of study which teachers can use to flesh out the statutory content, and one that contains guidance (e.g. about assessment, resources, places to visit, SMSC, etc., etc.) which teachers can utilise if they think it has merits.

You are no doubt aware that, in 2013, the Religious Education Council (REC) for England and Wales published its "RE Review" (which is easily accessed via the internet), and in the "RE Review" is a framework for an agreed syllabus which has been widely acknowledged to have many benefits and strengths. Other SACREs up and down the country have already used the framework to shape the statutory content of their revised syllabus, to the satisfaction of all stakeholders concerned. Northumberland's SACRE feels inclined to follow this pragmatic response to syllabus revision, but would like to hear from RE teachers in Northumberland if they think that such a decision would be wise.

If you would like to share with the SACRE your thoughts about using the REC's "RE Review" to shape the statutory content of the revised syllabus in the County (as has been done very successfully in Newcastle, for example), please forward them to Linda Papaioannou (Linda.Papaioannou@northumberland.gov.uk) or Phil André (phil.andre@ntlworld.com) as soon as possible **(and by no later than the end of May)**.

Comments about the units of study and the guidance are also welcome. For example,

- should the units of study be retained because teachers have always found that there is sufficient breadth, depth and flexibility for everyone to find something useful?
- Should the content of the units be retained but organised in a new way?
- Are there aspects of the existing guidance that needs updating and/or discarding?
- Are there new matters (e.g. the fundamental "British" values and extremism) about which some guidance should be provided?

We hope to hear from you soon so that, together, we can enhance what has always proved a popular RE agreed syllabus with a majority of Northumberland's teachers.

Photographs as a reminder of Northumberland's first ever Holocaust Memorial Day Event.

Held on Tuesday 27th January 2015 at County Hall, Morpeth.

