

Report on the Provision of Religious Education in the Denbigh High School Consortium of Schools

For SACRE - June 2012

1. Background:

Following visits by the Inspector/Adviser RE to each of the schools during the Spring term, a report of the visit and issues and outcomes was agreed with the school. There follows the Good Features, Shortcomings and Recommendations for each school, and a general summary of the whole consortium.

2. Excerpts from the School Visits:

a) Denbigh High School

Good features

- The scheme of work adapts the 'Framework RE' text books to the requirements of the agreed syllabus.
- Although the data is currently analysed, the department has recognised the need to formalise its use of data. This is currently a department target.

Areas for Development

- Using data. Strategies should be formalised to inform teachers of how underperforming pupils will be supported.
- Improve full course results - possibility of using Spec B.
- Improve short course results - Allow pupils the full time allocation as recommended in the WJEC examination specification and also to be able to meet the required 5% of curriculum time as directed by the Denbighshire Agreed Syllabus for RE.

Recommendations

- Portfolio of levelled work. Focus activities to ensure that Level 7 work emphasises a range of concepts and the wide variety of beliefs teachings and practices.

b) Frongoch

Good features

- Planning and subject documentation are excellent.
- The Units linked directly to key questions.

Areas for Development

- Encourage the RE skill 'Express' to be developed in written work in a majority of lessons.
- Targets currently in Subject Development plan are:
 - a) Monitor and adapt the new scheme of work
 - b) Update portfolio
 - c) Review and analyse the levels.

Recommendations

- Many RE lessons have 'engage' and 'expression' as discussion, but will it be remembered? It could be used as the hook for next lesson?
- After every discussion write a number of important points (Differentiation: 5 words, sentences, 50 words 100 words) structured by a specific question, what did you like? didn't like? what inspired you? This will allow pupils to improve their ability to write down their opinions and the opinions of others.

c) Ysgol Gwaeynog

Good features

- Collective Worship is well planned and resourced.
- Pupils showed a good understanding of why Christians fasted in Lent.
- The development of RE, integrating it into the rest of the Foundation Phase.

Areas for Development

- School council to create a record of collective worship (see recommendation)
- Already school targets for RE:
 - Implementing the new scheme of work into the Foundation Phase curriculum, Sept 2012.
 - Formally track pupils' progress in RE, incorporate RE into the 7 areas already on the EXCEL spreadsheet.

Recommendations

- Ask members of the school council to keep a portfolio for Collective Worship containing photos and comments from pupils on whole school and class assemblies as well as services and visits to the church.

d) Ysgol Heulfre

Good features

- The level descriptors are adapted to each unit.
- Trips and visits.

Areas for Development

- Audit the 'RE range' in topic work to ensure RE coverage.
- Allow more opportunities for pupils to express and engage with RE through their written work.

Recommendations

- Many RE lessons have engage and expression as discussion, but will it be remembered? It could be used as the hook for next lesson?
- Suggestion... For 5! After every discussion write down five important points (Differentiation: 5 words, sentences, 50 words 100 words) structured by a specific question, what did you like? didn't like? what inspired you? Etc... Have a class discussion, 2 min paired discussion, 2 minutes of silence to reflect then write them down. This can be used as the next lesson's starter or a link to the next task. E.g. Find 2 people with a different point of view/suggestion/belief etc... write them down.

e) Ysgol Cefnmeiriadog

Good features

- Engaging the learners by setting the scene for the topic on Pilgrimage
- The visual use of bible stories in acts of Collective Worship.

Areas for Development

- The creation of a levelled portfolio
- Include the aims from the agreed syllabus in the policy
- Separate the Collective Worship and RE paperwork in to two folders

Recommendations

- Include the more engaging activities and ideas into the scheme of work. i.e. lego parables.

f) Ysgol St Asaph VP

Good features

- Detailed scheme of work.
- Floor book containing highlights of work done in RE

Areas for Development

- Update the current Policies relating to RE and collective worship
- Portfolio to include examples of pupils work expressing their opinions and feelings

Recommendations

- www.Max7.org for songs and videos for RE and collective Worship

g) Ysgol y Parc

Good features

- The planning is comprehensive
- The range and standard of work in RE books is excellent
- The Holi 'experience' day

Areas for Development

- There are no specific areas for development

Recommendations

- Use a Persona Doll to help pupils focus the beliefs and practices of a Hindu.
- Using the schools ethos as a focus, pupils write a school prayer.

h) Ysgol Bodfari

Good features

- Planning is Comprehensive and detailed.
- The 4 year cycle for the delivery of Collective Worship is good.
- Work demonstrated the 3 core skills

Areas for Development

- Use the 3 core skills as the 'Aims' for RE in the Policy.

Recommendations

- Consider the 'RE in the Foundation Phase' document to enhance RE in the cross curricular nature of the Foundation Phase.

i) Ysgol Esgob Morgan

Good features

- The range of work in pupils' exercise books.
- The planning and scheme of work.

Areas for Development

- Continue the high standard of RE.

Recommendations

- There were no areas of recommendations

j) Ysgol Henllan

Good features

- Consortium planning.
- The range of resources used to teach RE.
- Pupils expressing their thoughts and opinions in the plenary session of the observed lesson.
- Links with the local church and chapel.

Areas for Development

- Enhance the book used to evidence trips and visits for RE. Pupils could include comments relating to the trips and visits or other tasks and activities they have done in RE.
- Include more 'express' written work in pupils books.
- Targets in the self evaluation:
- Use the grids from the comprehensive guide to track pupil progress in RE

Recommendations

- Allow pupils to write down their thoughts or opinions after discussion. Express questions could be included within plenary sessions and helped to focus a small written activity summarising what they have discussed or thought about in the lesson.

- If pupils are undertaking prolonged project work reducing the evidence in books, ask pupils to create a diary style record of what they have done in each lesson. Pupils could create targets at the beginning and evaluate their progress at the end of each lesson.

k) Ysgol Termeirchion

Good features

- Church in Wales's section 50 report commented that pupils are aware of the Christian ethos of the school and have a good knowledge and understanding of the curriculum.

Areas for Development

- The section 50 recommendations were as follows:
 - Record each act of worship and include silence in each act
 - Ensure the services are Christian in character
 - Use of the church year
 - Links to curriculum and experiences
 - Review the Worship Policy
- When RE is reviewed in the schools monitoring schedule, create a portfolio of levelled work.

Recommendations

- Create a prayer for the school, involving pupils
- Useful websites for Collective Worship are...
www.collectiveworship.com, the woodlands jnr school website and www.max7.org

3. Overall Comments

Good Features

There is much to celebrate in terms of the good features in the schools of the consortium, in particular three areas that were shared in more than one school:

- Detailed scheme of work
- Comprehensive planning
- The range and standard of work in RE books

The following areas for individual schools are:

- Department has recognised the need to formalise its use of data. This is currently a department target
- Planning and subject documentation are excellent
- The Units are linked directly to key questions
- Collective Worship is well planned and resourced
- Pupils showed a good understanding of why Christians fasted in Lent
- The development of RE, integrating it into the rest of the Foundation Phase
- The level descriptors are adapted to each unit
- Trips and visits
- Engaging the learners by setting the scene for the topic on Pilgrimage
- The visual use of Bible stories in acts of Collective Worship
- Floor book containing highlights of work done in RE
- The Holi 'experience' day
- Four year cycle for the delivery of collective worship is good
- Work demonstrated the 3 core skills
- Consortium planning
- The range of resources used to teach RE
- Pupils expressing their thoughts and opinions in the plenary session of the observed lesson
- Links with the local church and chapel
- CiW Section 50 report commented that pupils are aware of the Christian ethos of the school and have a good knowledge and understanding of the curriculum

Areas for Development

There were three areas for development identified across more than one school:

- Targets in subject / school development plan
- Include the Aims from Agreed Syllabus in the policy
- Encourage / allow / include more opportunities for pupils to express and engage in RE through their written work

For individual schools, they were:

- Using data
- Improve full course results - possibility of using Spec B
- Improve short course results
- School Council to create a record of collective worship
- Implementing new Scheme of Work into the Foundation Phase
- Formally track pupils progress in RE, incorporate RE into the seven areas already on the EXCEL spreadsheet
- Audit the RE range in topic work to ensure RE coverage
- The creation of a levelled portfolio
- Separate the collective worship and RE paperwork into two folders
- Update the current policies relating to RE and collective worship
- Portfolio to include examples of pupils' work expressing their opinions and feelings
- Continue the high standard of RE
- Enhance the book used to record evidence trips and visits for RE. Pupils could include comments relating to the trips and visits or other tasks and activities they have done in RE
- Targets in self evaluation
- Use the grids from the comprehensive guide to track pupil progress in RE
- Section 50 recommendations

Recommendations

There were three areas of recommendations for more than one school:

- Discussion from lesson to be used as the hook for next lesson
- Useful websites to use are www.collectiveworship.com & www.Max7.org for songs and videos for RE and collective worship

- Involve pupils in creating a prayer for the school

The following were for individual schools:

- Portfolio of levelled work.
- School Council to keep portfolio for collective worship containing photographs / comments from pupils on whole school and class assemblies as well as services and visits to the church
- Include the more engaging activities and ideas into the scheme of work i.e. lego parables
- Use a Persona Doll to help pupils focus on the beliefs and practices of a Hindu
- Allow pupils to write down their thoughts or opinions after discussion.
- Pupils to create a diary style record of what they have done in each lesson. Pupils could create targets at the beginning and evaluate their progress at the end of each lesson