

Millennium Greetings from around the World!

When Professor John Hull launched the East Riding Syllabus for RE, he suggested that his learned friends in Africa and Eastern Europe would be very happy to receive a copy.

So packages were sent to **Namibia, Zambia, Macedonia** and **Estonia**. They have been received with open arms. There was clearly a great need which has been reflected in subsequent e-mails and snail-mail.

Professor Zlatko Zoglev writes from Macedonia:

*"I received your Agreed Syllabus for RE. I am really delighted. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. This is the first time that I should start to teach **Comparative Religious Systems** at Faculty for Teacher Training, University of St. Clement of Ohrid in Bitola. I am the first prof. who will teach that subject at university level. I hope that I will have possibilities to send you the experiences of my teaching work."*

He e-mailed again on Christmas morning to wish the East Riding a "Merry Christmas"! A third e-mail arrived on December 30th:

"I wish you all the best in New Year 2000."

Pille Valk, the Chair of the Association of the Estonian RE Teachers, writes from the Faculty of Theology at Tartu University:

*"Today I received from you **East Riding Agreed Syllabus**. Thank you very much! It is a great help to us to build up again Estonian RE after 50 years of Soviet strong atheistic educational system. Your syllabus has great value to us - both to the teachers and to the students as well. It serves as a great help and a good example."*

We have just received a letter posted in Lusaka. It was from **Fr. John Mujdrica** at Nkrumah Teachers' College, Kabwe, Zambia:

"I have received a copy of your new RE Syllabus with great delight."

I thank you and Professor John Hull with all my heart. And, of course, I congratulate you for your masterpiece.

*With best wishes in your noble work,
....."*



Oh, what it is to be appreciated!!

Religious Education & Curriculum 2000

The new National Curriculum Handbooks refer to the requirements to teach RE and the distinctive contribution RE makes to the school curriculum.

The inclusion of paragraphs referring to RE are there as a kind of mission statement for the subject.

Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development are highlighted in the rationale for the school curriculum. There is an expanded statement of the importance of providing effective learning opportunities for *all* pupils, where RE already plays an important (if sometimes unsung) role. RE teachers have always had a distinctive and rich contribution to make to the development of language skills. The study of sacred texts, for example, has much to offer pupils in enriching their vocabulary, understanding and ability to communicate.

Religious Education & Citizenship

Following the expression of concern by some that **Citizenship** may impinge on RE in curriculum time, QCA has set out a table of references linking the **PSHE/Citizenship Framework to work in RE, through all 4 key stages.**

On November 2nd, Estelle Morris, Minister of State in the DfEE wrote:

"The introduction of Citizenship into the National Curriculum is intended to complement RE, and not in any way detract from or undermine what is a very important area of study. I fully agree that RE teachers can make a positive contribution to the development of both Citizenship and PSHE."

The East Riding has opened discussions as to how Citizenship and PSHE will be supported in schools and there'll be more to come later. RE is included in the conversation.

Watch this space.

ER RE in the News

The launch of our new syllabus was reported in the Spring 2000 edition of the magazine *RE Today*.

The editor spoke of the East Riding website, where it is available online, and commented upon the address given by Prof. John Hull. We have received some enquiries as a result.



ER Inset for the new Agreed Syllabus

The East Riding continues to plan support for schools as they revise their long term planning to take account of the revised syllabus and the new schemes of work.

Summer Inset planned so far:

- * *Label Of Love* - Secondary teachers (Performances a.m. & p.m.)
- * 28th June - KS1/2 Classteachers' introduction to the revised Syllabus and Schemes of Work (full day)
- * 7th July - The role of the Primary RE Coordinator (full day)

Further details will be on the course notices which should land in schools just before Easter. They should be applied for in the usual way through June Leech at County Hall.

Our shared Awayday to Bradford with Hull LEA was so successful that we are repeating it on October 14th. More of that anon!

CLUSTERS & PARTNERSHIPS

In sending heads of RE Departments copies of the KS1 & 2 Units, it is hoped that they will open the dialogue between KS2 and KS3, to ensure that the choice of religions covered at primary and secondary level is coordinated - providing a full 'picture' for every pupil by Year 11.

QCA RE Schemes of Work are about to arrive in school. A letter from SACRE will be sent to all schools pointing out that our own Agreed Syllabus is statutory for all but Voluntary Aided Schools. The QCA Schemes can best be looked upon as an extra, valuable, resource.

New **QCA Non-statutory Guidance** for RE is just out. It is a useful document which includes sections on national expectations, learning across the curriculum and the reflection and response element (our AT1). There is soon to be documentation on the use of ICT in RE. RE & Inclusion will be addressed later in the year.

All QCA documentation is accessible on the QCA website www.qca.org.uk

Meanwhile, those who work in a Church School will soon be the lucky recipients of new **Diocesan Guidelines**, due for publication in June with a launch at the:

Church Schools Conference 2000

Friday 30th June

St. John's College, York

Phil Willis MP (LibDem - Education Spokesman)

John Keast (QCA - RE, Citizenship & PSHE)

John is responsible for everything about RE that comes from QCA (Government), so he is well worth hearing.....and he's come from an LEA school background in Cornwall.

Recent legislation has strengthened the position of church schools, recognising diocesan authorities as important partners in the education system. Presently, Lord Dearing is chairing the Church Schools Review Group looking at the effectiveness of Church Schools. He is paying a visit to schools in the York Diocese in June.

Other Summer Inset

London RE Centre

* *RE and Special Needs*

Tues. 4th July 2000

- led by Janet Orchard (Special Education Needs Fellowship)

Further details from Julia Jones on 020 7932 1191.

CEM (Christian Ed. Movement)

PRIMARY:

- * *KS1 RE: Problems & Possibilities*
- * *Quality Collective Worship*
- * *An A-Z of RE: Active Learning Strategies*
- * *RE, PSHE & the Whole Person*
- * *Planning & Developing Quality RE in the Primary School*

SECONDARY:

- * *An A-Z of RE: Active Learning Strategies*
- * *RE, Assessment & Achievement*
- * *Learning from Religions*
- * *SMSC Development: RE's leading contribution*
- * *Improving A Level Religious Studies*

RESIDENTIAL (all key stages):

- * *Improving Effectiveness in RE*
- * *Developing RE: The Role of the Subject Leader*

Various dates all over the country - for details phone 01332 296655.

SfE (Stands for Education)

- * *National Expectations and Assessment in RE: How to Plan for Success at KS3 & 4*

At venues all over the country - details on 0117 983 8800.



Resources

BBC

Remember the blocked transmissions of Secondary broadcasts:

13-15 June - **Belief File** (KS3)

Film

Look out for *The Miracle Maker*, a major new feature film released in the UK from 31st March. This is an animated version of the life of Christ, featuring the voices of several respected British actors. It is billed as "a unique event for British cinema and the cultural and spiritual life of the UK in 2000". There are plans to broadcast it next year.

Rt. Hon Lord Habgood, former Archbishop of York, says:

"A moving and imaginative treatment.....a most exciting project."

www.themiraclemaker.com

Books

Madeleine Lindley Books have put together a complete list of literature to resource all the units in the KS1&2 Schemes of Work. An order form should be arriving in all primary schools detailing prices and choices of religions. Sadly Madeleine died of cancer in February after starting work on our project in which she took great personal interest. But the family business goes on and Carmel is our contact.

The LEA has invested in a complete set of the units and these will be on display in the Teachers' Resource Centre at Skirlaugh, along with other RE books which may be borrowed by arrangement.

Avo Kurvitz, Schools Librarian, has promised to remember RE when considering his new budget, so that schools may order their Project Packs to match the rolling programme of units. There is also an idea to include artefacts eventually, but we're working on that one.....!

Artefacts

Christine Howard of *Articles of Faith* is currently putting together a list of core artefacts for the KS1/2 units, and this will be sent to all primaries. The intention is to secure a budget for some LEA artefacts to be kept centrally. Meanwhile, don't forget to use the East Riding Resource Bases.

Money

A Christian Trust is offering grant funding for books to promote RE (against certain set criteria). At least two East Riding schools -

primary and secondary - have successfully met the conditions, so it could be worth a try!

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Some schools are saying that they did not receive the useful *Contacts in the East Riding & Hull* list sent out in December.

Please let the Skirlaugh Office (01482 883947) know if you need one.

Also, for those primaries who did not attend the recent Inset, there are available for the asking:

- ✓ coverage grids showing the way the objectives in the syllabus are incorporated into the units of the schemes of work.
- ✓ a suggested rolling programme of combined units for small schools.
- ✓ class tick grids for coverage of key assessment objectives.
- ✓ the key assessment objectives in 'childspeak' ready to copy onto self-adhesive stickers for use in the classroom.

The last-named and the schemes of work themselves (and the framework pages from the syllabus document) are all available on disk for you to edit as appropriate for your school. Just ring Jill, Marlene or Kay on the number given above if you'd like your own copy.



East Riding RE Working Groups

Small groups of teachers are being brought together to work on various aspects of our RE

syllabus, as full implementation begins.

We have been successful in securing £1500 Grant-funding from the St. Gabriel's Trust to develop a teacher-led project looking at smoothing the transition between key stages.

Other possible areas of focus are:

- mixed-age classes
- ICT
- Early years
- SEN
- assessment

We need teachers to volunteer to be part of such a group. Let Sue know if your school would like to be included.

Feedback

CONTINUE TO WATCH THE RE HOME PAGE ON ERIL!

All East Riding publications will appear there in due course, ready for downloading.

A forum for your - and your class's - comments should be set up very shortly.

We are still looking for young editors who could take it in turns to control editorship of the RE pages - any offers?

For further information or support with any aspect of RE, please contact

Sue Holmes (01482 885395) or

Noel Jones (01482 885392);

sue.holmes or noel.jones

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Sue also acts as York Diocesan Adviser to CE schools.

