

Report on the Provision of Religious Education in the Holywell Consortium of Schools

For SACRE - March 2013

1. Background:

Following visits by the Senior Learning Adviser RE to each of the schools during the autumn term, a report of the visit and issues and outcomes was agreed with the school. There follows the Good Features, Areas for Development and Recommendations for each school, and a general summary of the whole consortium.

2. Excerpts from the School Visits:

a) Holywell High School

Good Features

- Use of engaging questions as a focus for lessons
- Head of Department knowledge of the subject
- Scheme of Work addresses the RE skills

Areas for Development

- Ensure Collective Worship is monitored
- Develop monitoring processes at KS3
- Encourage literacy and numeracy opportunities throughout RE

Recommendations

- See areas for development

b) Ysgol y Llan

Good Features

- Collective Worship is well planned and is clearly identified in the ethos of the school
- The involvement of the learners in monitoring the subject
- RE is well planned
- Learners were clearly engaged

Areas for Development

- Be clear in what elements of literacy are being used in any given RE activity, i.e. evaluation, information collection etc...

Recommendations

- See areas for development

c) Bro Carmel CP School

Good Features

- The monitoring process - including learner voice
- The enthusiasm of the new RE coordinator

Areas for Development

- Scheme of work needs more detail. It currently contains references to the skills that need to be taught in each unit without suggesting the activities that would provide opportunities to teach these skills.
- Allow Year 5 and 6 learners' opportunities to compare within and across religions.

Recommendations

- Use the Comprehensive Guide for Religious Education as medium term plans. Update the plans using the editable version on Moodle.

d) Brynfordd CP School

Good Features

- Planning for RE
- Collective Worship

Areas for Development

- Including Islam in the Foundation Phase RE curriculum does not meet the requirements of the Flintshire Agreed Syllabus
- Create a portfolio of example work to demonstrate levels from the Foundation Phase outcomes through to Level 5 or 6

Recommendations

- A floor book of Collective Worship could be created by learners using photos of the various services and quotes from their peers.

e) Ysgol Esgob Caerwys

Good features

- The school council is involved in the evaluation of Collective Worship
- Collective Worship is well planned and the Christian character impacts the wellbeing of the children
- The evidence in books shows adherence to the curriculum.

Areas for Development

- Allow Year 5 and 6 learners' opportunities to compare within and across religions.
- Ensure that learners discuss the meaning behind the stories of Jesus. Example: ask the learners to think about the Christian beliefs that are used in the teachings (stories) of Jesus.

Recommendations

- Prayer Factor - consider asking the learners to create a school prayer based on the ethos of the school. This could be done as a competition with local ministers and governors choosing the winning prayer.

f) Glan Aber CP School

Good Features

- Links with the community
- As the coordinator is new and the curriculum is being reviewed this is a good opportunity to ensure that the RE skills and skills across the curriculum are embedded in the programmes of learning.

Areas for Development

- Agree on long term plan
- Foundation Phase tracking procedures
- Ensure that work reflects the Engaging and Express RE skills
- Use RE to help learners develop their skills across the curriculum

- Develop the monitoring of RE, this will allow the coordinator to see if there is appropriate coverage of the topics and an opportunity to see if the RE skills are being taught.

Recommendations

- See areas for development

g) Ysgol Lixwm

Good features

- Lessons are well planned
- Learners are clearly engaged throughout the lessons
- Monitoring of the subject

Areas for development

- Targeting low achieving pupils in year 6*
- Building on the skills of the KS 2 teacher*
- Staff meeting to moderate RE work*
- * taken from the subject development plan

Recommendations

- See areas for developments

h) Ysgol Maes Glas

Good features

- Planning for RE
- Good use is made of the local area, such as St Winifred's well and Holy Trinity church
- Variety of tasks and activities in the learners work

Areas for development

- Targets identified by the school*
 - *Create a floor book specifically for RE
 - *Integrate the RE and SEAL themes
 - *Continue to develop thinking skills
 - Improve the quality of class based acts of Collective Worship

Recommendations

- Use the theme from a whole school assembly for learners to discuss and write down their thoughts in a book or a post it note on Tuesdays, then they can share their thoughts on a Thursday.

i) Ysgol Perthy y Terfyn

Good features

- Collective Worship is done well
- The subject leaders file is comprehensive, able to move the subject forward

Areas for development

- Assessment criteria should reflect the outcomes in the agreed syllabus rather than 'knowledge and understanding of the world'.
- Ensure that each topic contains explicit RE stories and practice, for example in the theme of harvest include the story of the sower and the seeds, in weather, Jesus calms the storm etc...
- The explicit RE should be reflected in the SoW... See Comprehensive Guide for Religious Education (Flintshire Moodle)

Recommendations

- In a floor book combine the evaluations with photos and comments from learners.

j) Ysgol Trelawnyd

Good features

- Teaching is good
- Planning; matching the Church in Wales syllabus with the topics and skills
- The monitoring and commitment devoted to the subject

Areas for development

All the following are in the subject development plan

- Reviewing assessment procedures
- Understanding of diversity
- Review scheme
- New Collective Worship plan
- Visits to churches and other places of worship
- Extended writing

Recommendations

- Consider pupils creating a school prayer

K) Ysgol y Fron

Good features

- The use of the Comprehensive Guide for RE curriculum
- Links with the local church

Areas for development

- Create a portfolio of levelled work that can be used for staff moderation
 - 1) Implement the new curriculum*
 - 2) Buy some more religious artefacts to enhance the curriculum*
 - 3) to track pupils progress in RE*
- * Taken from the SDP

Recommendations

- See areas for development

3. Overall Comments

Good features:

In terms of good features there were four areas that were shared in more than one school:

- Provision / planning for Collective Worship (4 Schools)
- Planning for RE (4 Schools)
- The monitoring process - including learner voice (4 schools)
- Links with community and local church (3 Schools)
- Learners were clearly engaged (2 schools)

All the rest were for individual schools, and cover the following aspects:

- Use of engaging questions as a focus for lessons
- Head of Department knowledge of the subject
- Scheme of Work addresses the RE skills
- The enthusiasm of the new RE co-ordinator
- The evidence in books shows adherence to the curriculum
- As the co-ordinator is new and the curriculum is being reviewed this is a good opportunity to ensure that the RE skills and skills across the curriculum are embedded in the programmes of learning
- Variety of tasks and activities in the learners work
- The subject leaders file is comprehensive, able to move the subject forward
- Teaching is good
- Planning; matching the Church in Wales syllabus with the topics and skills
- The use of the Comprehensive Guide for RE curriculum

Areas for Development.

There was one area identified across more than one school:

- Allow Year 5 and 6 learners' opportunities to compare within and across religions. (2 Schools)

All the remaining stated areas for development were in individual schools only:

- Ensure Collective Worship is monitored
- Develop monitoring processes at KS3
- Encourage literacy and numeracy opportunities throughout RE

- Be clear in what elements of literacy are being used in any given RE activity, i.e. evaluation, information collection etc...
- Scheme of work needs more detail. It currently contains references to the skills that need to be taught in each unit without suggesting the activities that would provide opportunities to teach these skills.
- Including Islam in the Foundation Phase RE curriculum does not meet the requirements of the Flintshire Agreed Syllabus
- Create a portfolio of example work to demonstrate levels from the Foundation Phase outcomes through to Level 5 or 6
- Ensure that learners discuss the meaning behind the stories of Jesus. Example: ask the learners to think about the Christian beliefs that are used in the teachings (stories) of Jesus.
 - Agree on long term plan
 - Foundation Phase tracking procedures
 - Ensure that work reflects the Engaging and Express RE skills
 - Use RE to help learners develop their skills across the curriculum
- Develop the monitoring of RE, this will allow the coordinator to see if there is appropriate coverage of the topics and an opportunity to see if the RE skills are being taught.
- Targeting low achieving pupils in year 6*
- Building on the skills of the KS 2 teacher*
- Staff meeting to moderate RE work*
 - * taken from the subject development plan
 - Targets identified by the school*
 - *Create a floor book specifically for RE
 - *Integrate the RE and SEAL themes
 - *Continue to develop thinking skills
 - Improve the quality of class based acts of Collective Worship
- Assessment criteria should reflect the outcomes in the agreed syllabus rather than 'knowledge and understanding of the world'.
- Ensure that each topic contains explicit RE stories and practice, for example in the theme of harvest include the story of the sower and the seeds, in weather, Jesus calms the storm etc...
- The explicit RE should be reflected in the SoW... See Comprehensive Guide for Religious Education (Flintshire Moodle)
- Create a portfolio of levelled work that can be used for staff moderation
- 1) Implement the new curriculum*
- 2) Buy some more religious artefacts to enhance the curriculum*
- 3) to track pupils progress in RE*
- Reviewing assessment procedures *
- Understanding of diversity*
- Review scheme *

- New Collective Worship plan *
- Visits to churches and other places of worship *
- Extended writing*

Recommendations

One area was identified in more than one school:

- Consider pupils creating a school prayer (2 Schools)

All other areas of recommendation were for individual schools as follows:

- Use the *Comprehensive Guide for Religious Education* as medium term plans. Update the plans using the editable version on Moodle.
- A floor book of *Collective Worship* could be created by learners using photos of the various services and quotes from their peers.
- Use the theme from a whole school assembly for learners to discuss and write down their thoughts in a book or a post it note on Tuesdays, then they can share their thoughts on a Thursday.
- In a floor book combine the evaluations with photos and comments from learners.