

**WALSALL COUNCIL**

***STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON  
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION***

**MONDAY, 16 JULY 2018**

**R. E. TODAY - PROJECT FOR EXCELLENCE**

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To provide further information regarding the course content of the R.E. Today Project for Excellence and the proposed 3.5 days training.

**2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 That Members note the report

**3. Background**

- 3.1 At its meeting on Monday 9 October, 2018, SACRE approved funding for an R.E. Today initiative entitled 'Project for Excellence' at a cost of £5,000, which would be jointly funded by Walsall SACRE and RE Today at a cost of £2,500.00 each.
- 3.2 The aim of the project is to create RE Leaders capable of supporting and improving RE in their own school and in other primary schools.
- 3.1 A copy of the course content is included at Appendix 1.

**Elaine Maher  
16 July, 2018**



## Walsall SACRE/ RE Today Project for Excellent RE

### Excellent RE in Primary Schools

RE is too often marginal in schools facing curriculum change. However, there is some evidence that the subject can be pivotal in raising aspirations and standards through excellent teaching and learning, and improving opportunities for Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSCD) and British Values.

RE Today will work on behalf of Walsall SACRE, will work in 2018-19 with a select group of twelve schools with primary age children to provide a forum for curriculum development and access to 3 ½ days of high quality, practical and inspirational CPD for RE with a focus on supporting RE as a lead subject in school improvement, SMSCD/British Values and Curriculum breadth across the school – a current HMI priority.

This funded project is open to schools where there is a commitment from senior leaders to actively support the staff involved, providing them with opportunities to complete school based tasks and implement new ideas. The project will give teachers access to many high quality resources and activities.

This project is based on a sustained CPD project which will impact on RE across the school. Twelve schools from around Walsall will work together with RE Today to improve RE in their own schools.

### What will we do?

We will create a core group of 12 Walsall schools where an enthusiastic RE subject leader has the support of senior managers for involvement in the project.

We intend the project will show positive outcomes for many children that include, but are wider than, RE achievement: these wider outcomes can be characterised as to do with SMSCD and British Values.

Many teachers, whether new to the profession or established in their teaching careers, have had little or no training in the teaching of RE, and have more concerns about teaching RE than they do of other subjects. In many schools HLTAs and TAs are involved in teaching and, in some cases, managing the subject. This project intends to increase confidence in the teaching of RE in those schools involved.

Working with these schools over 12 months, we will meet at least termly to develop planning and resourcing for better RE and respond to needs, problems and opportunities. RE Today advisers will use their experience and catalogue of resources to enable teachers to develop better RE in the schools with a focus on collaborative working, creative engagement and learning from diversity.

5–6 Imperial Court, 12 Sovereign Road, Birmingham, B30 3FH

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Between main meetings, participants will work on RE improvement tasks in school, with frequent contact with advisers. We will explore with the partner schools the best ways of enabling high-quality RE learning for pupils, and develop numerous examples of better practice in doing this.

### **What will you need to do?**

- Participating schools need to show a commitment to this project over a period of 10 months.
- Allow a participant to attend all 4 of the face-to-face meetings
- Support participants to complete the school-based tasks
- Pay £150 per school as a contribution to the 3.5 days training. This will be refunded if you attend all days and complete the gap tasks.

All training days must be attended. The dates are: 22<sup>nd</sup> March (1-4.30), 7<sup>th</sup> June (full day), 6<sup>th</sup> November (full day) and 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019 (full day).

### **The project**

Starting with a half-day meeting in March 2018, three further day-long termly meetings 2018-19 will energise and resource good practice in the twelve project schools. Ongoing support (online and face-to-face) will enable improved RE to be securely built into the practice of participant schools.

We will meet termly to develop planning and resourcing for better RE and respond to needs, problems and opportunities. RE Today advisers will use their experience and catalogue of resources to enable teachers to develop better RE in the schools with a focus on collaborative working, creative engagement and learning from diversity. Between main meetings, participants will work on RE improvement tasks in school, with email contact with advisers.

We will explore with the partner schools the best ways of enabling RE and SMSC development for pupils, and develop numerous examples of better practice in doing this.

We hope to equip those who join this project to either set up or support a NATRE network group in their area, sharing the expertise they have gained.

### **Questions we will explore**

- How can we improve teaching and learning in RE and cascade this throughout the school?
- How can we create a manageable method of sharing with children realistic next steps in learning?
- How do we ensure children are making appropriate progress in all aspects of RE?
- How can we organise the curriculum for engaging and effective learning in RE?
- How can improving RE have a wider impact on schools in helping pupils to take up opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and British Values?
- What thinking and pedagogies can energise teachers in a plural setting to make the most of RE's potential for SMSCD and British Values?

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## Application Form

### Excellent RE in Primary Schools

Name of school	
Address of school	
	Post code:
Phone number of school	
Name of participating teacher	
Email of participating teacher	
Name of Headteacher	
Headteacher's signature	<p>I will allow the above named participating teacher to attend the four face-to-face training sessions (22<sup>nd</sup> March (1-4.30), 7<sup>th</sup> June (full day), 6<sup>th</sup> November (full day) and 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019 (full day)) and complete the in-between tasks.</p> <p>(signed)</p>
<p>Please return completed forms by email to: <a href="mailto:Elaine.Maher@walsall.gov.uk">Elaine.Maher@walsall.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Please return forms by 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018 at the latest.</p>	

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