

# SACRE CONFERENCE



**Sunday 8th May — 12pm to 4pm**

The day will include **Kosher lunch, discussion time and workshops**, as well as a talk from Geoffrey Penzer on the RE-silience project (<http://www.re-silience.org.uk>) which has been working with teachers and schools to help them to address contentious issues in the classroom

And as always there will be the opportunity for you to **share experiences** from your own SACREs.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

SACRE Representative of \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Contact No. \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_



ABLE TO ATTEND                      UNABLE TO ATTEND    (please tick)

Ps. Please discuss with your SACRE the possibility of claiming expenses for your trip.

(The Board will endeavour to reimburse reasonable travel expenses if these cannot be covered by your SACRE.)



Please return this page to Hannah Ashleigh at Board of Deputies, 6 Bloomsbury Square, London WC1A 2LP or on [hannah.ashleigh@bod.org.uk](mailto:hannah.ashleigh@bod.org.uk)

# JEWISH SACRE NEWS



**DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!!!**

The Annual Jewish SACRE Conference will take place  
on:  
**Sunday 8th May**  
**12.00 pm - 4.00pm**  
at the Board of Deputies of British Jews  
6 Bloomsbury Square, London, WC1A 2LP  
See back page for information and application form!





Taking place throughout March 2011, Celebrating RE is a month long celebration of Religious Education in schools, colleges, universities, faith and belief communities and local communities throughout England and Wales. Its purpose is to celebrate the contribution that high quality RE can make to the education of every child and young person. It also aims to raise public awareness and understanding of the nature of RE as a subject which is relevant, challenging, interesting and of educational value to all, whatever their religious or philosophical background.

#### What is the Board of Deputies doing?

→ For the whole month of March, we are displaying our “Jewish Way of Life Exhibition” (JWOLE) at the Greenwich Heritage Centre in the Royal Arsenal in Woolwich. It will be open to schools, youth groups, community groups and museum visitors. Our display will be enhanced by the addition of information from the Jewish Military Museum, and we are exploring specific links between Jewish ex-servicemen and the Royal Artillery Regiment.

→ We have donated ten sets of our popular “JWOLE Lite” posters to be given as prizes in one of the many competitions for schools

→ Staff from the BoD’s Education team will be judging competitions and Sandra Teacher, our Education Consultant, will be speaking as a ‘faith expert’ at a national conference entitled “Whose RE is it anyway”

#### What can you do?

You may find that your synagogue receives an increased number of calls from schools who wish to visit during the month. If you need any assistance in planning such visits, or if you could use the support of the Board’s team of volunteers who assist with such trips then please be in touch.

You may wish to choose one or two days during the month of March where your synagogue could be open for visits and workshops for local schools. These “Open Days” can be advertised on the ‘What’s on?’ section on the Celebrating RE website and schools would then contact you if they wished to attend. Once again, please be in touch if you would like assistance in arranging such an event.

#### For more information

To find out more or to advertise an event please visit the Celebrating RE website - [www.celebratingre.org](http://www.celebratingre.org) or contact Hannah on 020 7543 5400 or [hannah.ashleigh@bod.org.uk](mailto:hannah.ashleigh@bod.org.uk)



## !!! JWOLE Lite !!!

**We still have sets of our popular JWOLE Lite posters available for sale. The set of eight A1 laminated posters cover topics including chagim, keeping kosher and Jewish values. A set costs just £25 including P&P—please contact Hannah for more information.....**





## NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT...



This is a busy time in terms of National RE policy and there are various high-profile RE stories that you may have heard about:

### The Review of the National Curriculum

Some people have raised concerns that RE has been left out of the review of the National Curriculum. Please be assured that RE remains a compulsory subject as part of the wider curriculum in schools. The review documents state that "the Government does not intend to make any changes to the statutory basis for religious education." The current model of Locally Agreed Syllabi determined by SACREs is being retained which is good news as some groups have been campaigning for it to be brought into the National Curriculum so that there is tighter governmental control over content. We of course know the value of the SACRE model and the locally relevant and specific curricula that it produces and so we welcome the fact that the new government will be keeping this system in place.

### Including RE as a Humanities subject on the English Baccalaureate?

The EBacc has been introduced by the government as a way to measure achievement across a range of "core academic subjects" studied at GCSE. It is not a new qualification in itself, but is awarded to any student who passes GCSEs in English, Maths, Science, a foreign language and a humanities subject. In the 2010 league tables, RE was not included as a humanities subject which could count towards the EBacc. Professional RE associations, together with faith groups and many concerned teachers and parents have been campaigning to ensure that RE is included in next years listing of EBacc qualifying subjects. This is important as RE must be recognised as the valuable subject that it is, but also as it runs the risk of being marginalised and under-resourced by schools if it does not count towards their position in the league tables.

### Teaching RE in Academies and Free Schools

Academies are independent schools which receive their funding direct from the government, as opposed to through their Local Authority. One of the freedoms afforded to academies is that they are not obliged to follow the National Curriculum; they can choose their own curriculum, as long as it is "broad and balanced. NATRE (National Association of Teachers of RE) contacted the Department of Education about the place of RE in academies and received the following heartening reply: "In accordance with their funding agreement, where an Academy has not been designated with a religious character the Academy must ensure that religious education is given to all pupils at the Academy in accordance with the requirements for locally agreed syllabuses. This means that syllabus reflects the fact that the religious traditions in Great Britain are in the main Christian whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain. "Trust schools that are designated faith schools have to teach RE in accordance with the tenets of the faith. If they are not designated faith schools they must teach the locally agreed syllabus."

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## CHOOSING RESOURCES ON WORLD RELIGIONS

Following from the findings and recommendations of "Materials used to Teach about World Religions in Schools in England", carried out by the University of Warwick in 2010, the latest addition to NATRE's website is user-friendly, online guidance on choosing high quality resources for teaching world religions in RE. this guidance provides: a brief summary of the Warwick Report's findings, key questions for teachers, stimulus materials to support discussion and decision-making for teachers working individually or with colleagues. An ideal stimulus to review the resources you currently suggest to people and to guide the selection of new ones. The pages on visits and visitors are particularly useful for anyone who speaks in schools or organises tours of their synagogue. See: [www.natre.org.uk/rq](http://www.natre.org.uk/rq)

### USEFUL RESOURCES.....

Have you seen these websites??

[www.reonline.org.uk](http://www.reonline.org.uk)

[www.trubetube.co.uk](http://www.trubetube.co.uk)

[www.4thought.tv](http://www.4thought.tv)

[www.g-dcast.com](http://www.g-dcast.com)

[www.theholocaustexplained.org](http://www.theholocaustexplained.org)

[www.thebricktestament.com](http://www.thebricktestament.com)



## Ongoing projects at the Board.....

**Seeing Jewish Life** (SJL) Tours give pupils a chance to experience the vibrant Jewish way of life in its own environment. These trips are an excellent opportunity to witness the dynamics that exist within the contemporary Jewish community of London.

SJL tours can be tailor-made to meet the needs of the individual school. The tours may include: a tour of a synagogue, workshops at the newly refurbished Jewish Museum in Camden, meeting a Holocaust survivor, visiting Jewish shops, schools or care homes and enjoying a kosher meal. Each group is accompanied by a trained volunteer guide who will provide an insight into the Anglo-Jewish community.

SJL tours cost £15 per pupil, including kosher meal. If you would like to advertise the SJL tours to schools in your area please contact the Education Department.

**Tel:** 020 7543 5400 **Email:** [hannah.ashleigh@bod.org.uk](mailto:hannah.ashleigh@bod.org.uk) **Website:** [www.bod.org.uk](http://www.bod.org.uk)



The Board of Deputies **Jewish Way Of Life Exhibition** (JWOLE) is designed to enable pupils, students and their teachers to gain a fresh insight into Judaism. It is suitable for all key stages but is especially designed for KS 2.

The exhibition includes illustrated panels on Shabbat, kashrut, Jewish festivals, rites of passage and Jewish values. It is an excellent opportunity for pupils to develop spiritually, morally, socially and culturally through the many discussions and workshop ideas that are generated by the display.

In 2010, we had a hugely busy and exciting year which took us to **Norwich, Hull, Portsmouth, Dorchester Abbey** and **Glasgow!** This year we are heading to Hasmonean School in Barnet and Greenwich and then to **SWEDEN (!)** as part of the World Scout Jamboree!! We will also be at the Methodist Conference in Southport.

We continue to focus our approach on areas where there is little or no Jewish community. If your SACRE is interested in hosting JWOLE, please contact Hannah Ashleigh on 020 7543 5400 or [hannah.ashleigh@bod.org.uk](mailto:hannah.ashleigh@bod.org.uk).

*?? How can we help you ??*

*BoD are here to help you with any issues or concerns that may arise with regards to your SACRE or the teaching of Judaism in your area—please be in touch if we can assist you in any way.....Or just to let us know if something good happens!!*

**For further information on anything covered in this newsletter or about any of the Board's work, please contact Hannah Ashleigh at:**



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