



Ealing RE Network

Newsletter Winter 2007

www.egfl.org.uk/religion

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Happy New Year and welcome to the second issue of the Ealing RE Network newsletter. Sorry for the delay, but we were waiting until we could bring you solid news regarding the state of the syllabus.

Syllabus update: the latest version of the new syllabus, "The marriage of heaven and earth", was presented at the full SACRE meeting on 17 January. It was agreed that it should be distributed to schools and faith groups for consultation, and it was sent out in the 31 January gatekeeping. It is also available on the EGfL, as are example schemes of work, which continue to be posted on the curriculum section of the RE website.

Issues of concern for Muslim pupils and parents: A team of SACRE members and LA education officers have drafted a booklet covering a wide variety of issues affecting the substantial number of Muslim pupils in our schools. The draft has been sent to all the borough mosques for comment, and will be distributed via gatekeeping at the end of February, before being presented to SACRE at the summer meeting.

Coming: There will be two conferences in the summer term for RE teachers, which will replace the network meetings. It is hoped that these conferences will serve as launches for both the final version of the syllabus and the RE module of the Caspian Learning software. So far, the CLC has been booked for 6 July for the secondary conference, the theme of which is tentatively set as "Tolerance".

Upcoming network meetings:

Secondary subject leaders: Wednesday 7 February 2007, 1-4 pm, City Learning Centre. Alim Shaikh of Ealing CLC will introduce the Caspian Learning software and Vivi Lachs of Hackney CLC will be guest speaker.

Primary subject leaders: Wednesday 7 March 2007 4-6 pm, EEC Room 8. Keith Field, consultant RE adviser for Hillingdon, will lead a session on assessment in RE.

Contributions to future newsletters are welcome. Please post or email to: Nora Leonard, SACRE Consultant, Strategy and Improvement, Perceval House P2: NW, 14-16 Uxbridge Road, London W5 2NL (nleonard@ealing.gov.uk)



Virtual synagogue

The goal of **Caspian Learning** software is to improve the ability of students to acquire, retain and utilise knowledge by delivering an enjoyable learning experience. Students are immersed in a sensory 3D computer-generated environment in which they are required to interact with a variety of characters, artefacts and objects that are dependant on the subject matter. These interactions encourage them to acquire and manipulate information to complete specific learning tasks.

Each module is designed to support an area of the curriculum, and a group at Ealing CLC contracted with Caspian to design an RE module. The player will enter five virtual environments— a church, a mosque, a synagogue, a temple and a gurdwara—and interact with both a religious figure (e.g. priest) and a member of the congregation.



Virtual gurdwara

Caspian Learning was so impressed by the RE module that they have decided to bundle it with all software packs they sell throughout the world. In exchange, Ealing high schools will receive the software for free, including all curriculum modules currently available. The RE module will also be available to primary schools. Secondary subject leaders will be able to trial the software at the network meeting 7 February.