

Poole RE Network

19th May 2016

Minutes

1. Wows and worries

- Concerns about the pressure of the new curriculum - some schools are squeezing RE time – RE leaders need to ensure this doesn't happen (remind SLT of legal requirement)
- Staff who were new to teaching and new to RE leadership felt support through the network is helpful especially when it comes to motivating other staff to deliver good RE – some schools using HLTA's to teach RE (some doing it very well)
- Some schools were blocking RE which enables opportunities to go deeper and also invite in speakers from outside – still at an experimental stage – Is blocking a good idea? Would having RE days work well?
- Lilliput had some children withdrawn from RE when Islamic speaker came in – v sad

2. National updates

- Right to withdraw from RE— a very brief sharing of opinions ensued – waiting for developments as to whether the current situation changes

3. Focus on aspects of subject leadership.

- Subject leader handbook update — copies of the handbook were distributed for examination which lead to discussions about
 - i. RE policy,
 - ii. Resources (suitability, availability and cost implications)
 - iii. leading staff meetings and inspiring other staff – helping staff with gaps in their RE knowledge
 - iv. ***Crossing the bridges*** – examining the need to visit places of worship and deepen the learning when at a special place – focussing on a key concept and engaging directly with the faith communities (discussed fully at previous meeting)

4. Agreed syllabus launch

- 17th June at BLC – all those present are down to attend

5. Next time... What would you like?

- Always looking for help with speakers in schools
- New resource ideas – engagement with faith communities
- Updates from Discovery RE