

School Visiting – A Proposal

I would like to propose that Doncaster SACRE aims to compile a list of people who would welcome an invitation to visit schools as a resource for teachers to use in RE, ethics, philosophy or other appropriate lessons or assemblies. The aim would be to enrich students' religious education and enhance awareness, understanding and tolerance of religious diversity.

It would not be to persuade or proselytise. However, a direct engagement with people with different world views might enliven and inspire pupils' thinking so they can make their own judgments and develop their own understanding.

All faiths, denominations and other world views might be invited to submit the name and contact details of individuals or of a coordinator so that teachers would be able to arrange visits easily.

The list might be maintained and circulated to all Doncaster schools at regular intervals - perhaps annually.

With the listing there might be guidance for teachers and a recommended code of practice for visitors.

The SACRE might also look to provide some basic training for school visitors which would draw attention to the code of practice, would discuss how to work effectively with teachers and with different age groups of children.

I would like to propose that a small group of SACRE members form a sub-committee to consider all relevant implications, research what other SACREs are doing and submit a complete, thought through proposal to a future meeting.

Bob Kiddle
February 2022