

Councillor Doreen Dart

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To:

Headteacher / Head of RE

Our Ref: SACRE / Face to Faith
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Dear Colleague

Face to Faith School Resource

I am really pleased to send you this exciting "Face to Faith" Schools Resource Booklet and DVD. The films on the DVD have been made by the students in Kingsdown, Ridgeway, Commonweal and Nova Hreod Schools.

This project was funded partly by the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education and as Chair of Swindon SACRE I would like to commend it to you as a useful tool to support Religious Education, PSHE and Citizenship. What is the huge strength of this material is that it is made by students in Swindon – for students in Swindon.

We will also be seeking to make a copy of the booklet and the DVDs available via the Schools Online site.

Set out below are some starting suggestions for the ways in which the DVD films might be used to link to the current Swindon Agreed Syllabus and curriculum for Religious Education in schools.

1. Nova Hreod School Film called "Who cares" - This could be an interesting starter in the Key Stage 2 Unit Christianity – "Why do people believe in God?", asking specifically why do people believe in God if it means they are bullied or feel left out as a result? This film uses "Creature Comforts" Ardman Animations style stop-frame techniques and would appeal to Key Stage 2 pupils. They could even be encouraged to make their own animation/ cartoon strip about "Why do people believe in God" in response.
2. The Kingsdown film "Dance, Diversity and Faith" - This could be used within the Key Stage 3 unit "Expressions of Meaning": an exploration of how symbolic movement can be used in different faith traditions. Pupils could be asked to speculate on the meaning of the movements used in the film, leading into an

exploration of how physical symbolic movements are used within faith traditions. Again this could then be used to challenge students to construct their own sequence of symbolic movement, and other groups could speculate as to the intended meaning.

3. The Commonweal film "Place and Faith" - This would provide an excellent starter trigger for a GSCE RE or Citizenship short course that explores Religious Diversity in the UK and covers the issue of stereotyping. Students could be asked to devise their own "twice- played tableau" similar to the final scene with the artist and the soldier. A scene when you first look appears to be one thing and then on further inspection the truth is something else.
4. The Ridgeway Film "Texture of Peace" - This may make a calming spiritual introduction to the Key Stage three unit "Living in Peace". Students could try to unpack the central messages of Peace communicated in the film. This could then be shown again at the end of the unit to explore whether the ideas about Peace learnt through studying Islam and Christianity can be found in the film – what are the similarities and differences? Why do they think that is?

We would be interested in hearing of other ways in which you have used the material, both the DVDs and Resources booklet ideas, so that this can be shared with other teachers via the RE Network meetings. Please inform us of these by writing to Chair of the SACRE c/o Sarah Lawrence, Civic Offices, Euclid Street, Swindon, SN1 2JH, or on slawrence@swindon.gov.uk.

If you have any questions about the resource booklet and DVDs please contact Kati Wood on 01793 466236 or kwood@swindon.gov.uk.

I hope that you will find this DVD and Booklet a useful resource and join me in congratulating those students, teachers, community workers and artists who were involved with this project.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Doreen Dart
Chair of Swindon SACRE