

## **Message from Mark Chater, newly appointed QCA Curriculum adviser for RE**

First of all, could I introduce myself as the new QCA Curriculum Adviser for RE and say how much I am looking forward to working with SACREs to support the continued and developing good teaching of RE in primary and secondary schools.

A major focus as I start this new post is to take an interest in how SACREs are succeeding in impacting on good practice, and to discover what concerns SACREs might have about their work. Communication between us will remain an important way of sharing good practice and concerns. The non-statutory National Framework for RE will continue to be a key document in supporting good practice.

One practical way in which this communication takes place is the SACRE annual report to the QCA. As you know, these reports are required by regulation (Circular 1/94) and are carefully read by me, and by the RE team, before being analysed in our annual summary of SACRE reports. The previous two annual summaries are on the QCA RE web pages, and they give an important snapshot of the main strengths and concerns about SACRE work nationally.

The annual report should, therefore, be seen as a key improvement tool by all SACREs. Annual reports for 2005 are not all yet submitted, and as timing is tight, could I ask you to check, as a matter of priority, if your SACRE has submitted one to the QCA, and if not, to do so urgently? This will greatly help in our completion of this year's cycle of reporting.

Several colleagues have asked about the scheme of work that will illustrate the National Framework. The first ten units of this scheme are in the final completion stage, and will be uploaded on the QCA RE pages in late July. It is important to state that, as both the Framework itself, so with the scheme, are non-statutory, there will not be a consultation period for the units. Comments from the profession and the faith communities are, as always, welcome, but as the units are offered for SACREs and schools to consider without obligation, a formal consultation process is not needed in this case.

I look forward to working with you in the future and to receiving your annual report at the earliest opportunity, if you have not already sent it.

Yours sincerely

Dr Mark Chater  
QCA Curriculum Adviser for RE