

## **Report on the work of the Scottish Joint committee on Religious and moral education 2016**

The SJCRME is still going through a period of change to establish itself as the body that best represents and supports effective RME in Scotland in the 21st century. In order to achieve this aim the committee, which consists of representatives of most of the faith communities and education communities in Scotland, reviewed its constitution and agreed on its remit in relation to Education Scotland and the Scottish government

This year the committee has focussed upon ways to provide greater opportunity for engagement between the different groups concerned with Religious and Moral Education. It welcomes input from the Humanist Society of Scotland and Interfaith Scotland to ensure that RME is as relevant and responsive to the needs of Scottish society as possible. The new website is close to being launched and will include links to resources valuable both for delivering the Curriculum for Excellence outcomes and experiences and to further teacher's CPD.

In the role of a non partisan pressure group the SJCRME have been in dialogue with Education Scotland to discuss the implications local implementation of CfE has had on the development and delivery of the subject. Through freedom of Information requests the committee is piecing together the geographical discrepancies in terms of delivering the national entitlement of the subject area and examples of good practice that occur in isolated areas around the country. The committee has also asked all the political parties for their intentions in terms of the place of RME in the curriculum.

Further developments which will take part in the coming session will be the commissioning of small scale teacher research projects to supplement the paucity of existing high quality research on the provision, learning, teaching and impact of RME in Scotland. Practising teachers will also have the opportunity to be co-opted onto short life working groups to address the needs of the profession in this curricular area. These two new developments work within the new demands for teacher leadership within HGIOS4 and to establish the role of the SJCRME as the organisation that promotes good quality RME provision in Scotland.