



Religious Observance in Schools: Maximising its potential

Thursday 17th November 2011 (morning seminar)

Aberdeen, Holburn West Church

Tuesday 24th January 2012 (morning seminar)

Stirling

Tuesday 13th March 2012 (morning seminar)

Ayr, Castlehill Parish Church

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



The Church of Scotland

Church and Society Council



OVERVIEW

Recent guidance has defined religious Observance in schools as being

"Community acts which aim to promote the spiritual development of all members of the school community and express and celebrate the shared values of the school community"

Well run and carefully planned Religious Observance events have huge potential to help make sense of Curriculum for Excellence and be a place where young people are helped to understand who they are and what they might be.

Using their experience of Religious Experience in schools across the country combined with drawing on the context and challenges of the course participants, Ken Coulter and Ewan Aitken will help those responsible for Religious Observance in schools design RO events that are inclusive, innovative and inspiring.

SPEAKERS



Ewan Aitken

Church of Scotland, former CoSLA spokesperson on Education and Convenor of Education in Edinburgh

Ewan Aitken is the Council Secretary for the Church of Scotland's Church and Society Council which has the remit of facilitating the Church's engagement with social, political and ethical issues. He is a member of the Iona Community, ordained in the Church of Scotland and is an honorary research fellow of the University of Glasgow. Ewan is also a Labour member and former leader of the City of Edinburgh Council and was Education Spokesperson for CoSLA from 2003 -2006. He was a member of the Ministerial Group on looked after children, the Ministerial Excellence group on RME and the Ministerial stakeholders group for Curriculum for Excellence. He has been a columnist for the TESS and written for many other publications on education matters and is a director of the Edinburgh International Science Festival.



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Ken Coulter

Scripture Union Scotland, formerly LTS Religious Observance Implementation Officer
Ken Coulter currently works for Scripture Union Scotland as team Leader for the GO Project in Glasgow. Previously he taught RME in Glasgow Schools and for over two years was the Development Officer for Learning Teaching Scotland for Religious Observance following the issuing of Circular 1/2005. He has also worked as a Baptist Minister and still serves in that faith community as a hospital chaplain in Glasgow and as a milkman and asbestos stripper, but not all at the same time. He has history and theology degrees from Edinburgh and Aberdeen Universities and a teaching qualification from Strathclyde University.

SEMINAR PROGRAMME

- 09:00** **Coffee and Welcome**
- 09:15** **Religious Observance: what's it like in your school?**
Opening discussion facilitated by Ewan Aitken and Ken Coulter
- 09:45** **What we mean by Religious Observance in schools?**
Ken Coulter, Scripture Union Scotland, formerly LTS Religious Observance Implementation Officer
- 10:15** **What we hope to achieve with Religious Observance in schools**
Ewan Aitken, Church of Scotland, former CoSLA spokesperson on Education and Convenor of Education in Edinburgh
- 10:45** **Coffee and Questions**
- 11:15** **Workshop Sessions: what can we do with Religious Observance in our schools?**
Delegates will attend one workshop running for an hour which will be facilitated by either Ewan Aitken or Ken Coulter and using delegates' own situations as the basis for discussion
- 12:15** **Plenary Session: what next and how?**
- 12:30** **Close**

BENEFITS OF ATTENDING THIS SEMINAR

- Learn from others what RO is like in their schools
- Discuss what can be achieved through RO in schools
- Gain a better understanding of what RO can deliver in schools
- Share best practice and knowledge with others in similar professions
- Discuss individual finding in small informal groups settings
- Develop greater understanding of current legislation

WHO THIS SEMINAR IS AIMED AT

Academics
Elected Members
Equality Organizations
Faith Community
Local Government Officials
MSPs and Researchers

Professional and Membership
Bodies
Scottish Government Officials
Scottish Parliament Officials
Teachers

Think Tanks
Trade Unions
Voluntary and Charitable
Organisations
Youth Organisations



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Please book online using our simple 5 step booking process at www.mackayhannah.com

COST TO ATTEND

£99 plus VAT (£118.80)

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Email amackay@mackayhannah.com

See our website www.mackayhannah.com

CONTACT DETAILS

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