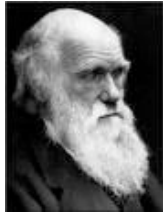


Science and Religion in Schools

Bulletin No.8

Autumn 2009



The celebration of the Bicentenary of Charles Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of the publication of 'On the Origin of Species' has, understandably, led to a good year for the Science and Religion in Schools Project. Conferences have been well attended and sales of our Guides have been going well. Not surprisingly schools and students are becoming more and more interested in the debate between the claims of both subjects.

We have been helped by the excellent value and very low prices of our two Guides (Secondary Schools £15, Primary Schools £12.50 plus postage and packing) that follows from our use of 'print on demand' technology and CD-Roms. This also allows us to update the materials and to add new topics quickly and cheaply. We are at the present time, for instance, developing topics on 'Spirituality and Science' and 'Psychology and Religion'. As you know very well, a school needs only one CD-Rom in its central system for it to be available on any computer throughout the school. This means, of course, that one Guide with its CD-Rom has the potential to influence every child in the school.

We are particularly interested to hear from you if you find any errors or omissions in our materials (we hope there are none!) or if you have ideas about new topics which you think should be included (there must be some). We plan to update these Guides at least once a year and when we do so you will not necessarily have to buy new copies as we provide updated materials on our website [www.srsp.net] which you will be able to download.

Further good news is that Religious Studies syllabuses are increasingly including topics concerned with the 'Science and Religion' debate. Of course each syllabus is different but the flexibility of our materials allow them to be used over a wide range of topics.

Another item of interest is that we are planning a research project, to be undertaken by the London Institute of Education, which will investigate the impact that our materials are making in schools and suggest ways in which we can improve our 'market penetration'. If all goes well, the results of this research will be published by the end of this academic year.



Perhaps the most ambitious project that we are planning is the establishment of an International Association to encourage the development of Science and Religion in Schools projects in countries round the world. The 'Science and Religion' debate has flourished globally in universities for some time, helped by the support of the John Templeton Foundation; however progress in schools has, for some reason, been much slower. Of course, Religious Education takes many different forms in different parts of the world; what is taught in one country will not necessarily be appropriate in another. Never-the-less we have much to learn from each other. A momentum is certainly gathering in the UK where there are already two further projects for schools being developed. As far as we are concerned, the more projects the better. Schools will benefit from having a choice of materials.

We intend to launch the **International Association for Science and Religion in Schools** (as it may be called) at an international conference during 2010. We shall announce the launch on our website as soon as it is confirmed. Meanwhile we should be interested to hear from you if you have contacts in schools or universities who you think might like to take part.

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