

RE Newsletter AUTUMN 2014



"It is never too late to be who you might have been" George Eliot

Welcome to the New Year and we hope you were able to be restored by sea, mountains, woods or being with those you love.

The beginning of the Autumn term is always full of possibilities - as a fresh exercise book - the pages are blank and all is hope for new chances to shine. Change and growth is always possible.



So what is new?

Last term saw the so-called "Trojan Horse" Birmingham enquiry into schools and the outcomes from that investigation have worked their way into the New Ofsted framework for schools.

Inspection from September 2014.

Some schools/ academies in Birmingham were found not to be offering a broad and balanced RE curriculum or Assemblies / Collective Worship that were "wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character". In the light of that, the new framework emphasises the requirement for inspectors to make judgements about the school's SMSC. This Ofsted framework should serve to strengthen the place of RE and Assemblies/CW in the life of the school and is a good tool to use when arguing for budgets, staffing and access to CPD.

An annotated copy of the framework highlighting key changes can be downloaded [here](#) and highlights the greater emphasis on RE.

Katy Staples from Bristol Diocese has also published a very helpful booklet which can be found [here](#). In particular there is a very helpful diagnostic check-list for governors and headteachers entitled 'How effective is our school at SMSC, RE and CW?' Which can be found on page 12 and 13.

Religious Education

The Christianity Project

New free on-line resources are being made available to all schools from the New Year. The expectation for Church schools is that this theological approach is considered and adopted by all. For this reason we are recommending that schools pair together and ask their Diocesan Education Officer to lead two staff training meetings. One to introduce the resources and one later in the year to discuss how well they have been used in school, to moderate outcomes and reflect on standards and progression. As you know currently each school is entitled to one DEO visit a year and your training sessions could be part of this. To book staff training in your area please contact your

Diocesan Education Officer:

<mailto:penny.burnside@exeter.anglican.org>;

<mailto:richard.maudsley@exeter.anglican.org>;

<mailto:tatiana.wilson@exeter.anglican.org>;

In the interim these resources might be worth considering:

Early Years RE resources for teaching Christianity

<http://www.stedmundsbury.anglican.org/index.cfm?page=cyp.content&cmid=633>

New KSI resources for teaching Christianity are available to be downloaded for free at the bottom of the above webpage. (Foundation Stage to follow very soon)

Guildford Diocese have also produced some useful resources for FS, KSI and 2

<http://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/school-life/religious-education/>

Secondary Resources

<http://www.bristol.anglican.org/i/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/HW-New-Approaches-for-the-Teaching-of-Christianity.pdf>

Offer some insight into what the new expectations for teaching Christianity at secondary school will look like for Church Schools.

Subject management

This document will help you align the DFE teacher standards with Religious Education and can help you ensure that teachers have the same high expectations for the standards of their teaching in RE as for any other subject.

http://religioueducationcouncil.org.uk/media/file/DFE_Teacher_standards_2013.pdf

This document is a reassuring handbook for teachers of RE and is helpful in explaining the religious beliefs of most traditions and guidance for pedagogy and subject management. This is an excellent reference text to store and have easily accessible. <http://re-handbook.org.uk/>

The new Ofsted requirements for September 2014 requires schools to safeguard their students by ensuring that they are not being exposed to extremism through the faith visitors that they may invite into the classroom or to assemblies.

This is a useful document that offers a sensible guide as to how to safely invite and use people of faith into your school. http://www.natre.org.uk/docstore/Voices%20of%20Faith_leaflet.pdf

As an RE teacher isolation can be a debilitating experience and it can be good to link with other RE teachers. Being part of a Learn Teach Lead RE local hub is the most effective way of connecting and sharing www.ltlre.org but it can also be good to be part of a national association NATRE (The

National Association of RE Teachers is an association well worth being a member of.
<http://www.natre.org.uk/index.php>

New Agreed Syllabus

Devon, Plymouth and Torbay SACREs have worked together to develop a new Agreed Syllabus that is essentially similar but with local variations.

<http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/learningschools/sacre.htm>

If you are in Plymouth your school should have received three copies of 'Engaging with Religion and Worldviews' which has additional local resources.

Torbay schools should contact the clerk to Torbay SACRE for a copy of their syllabus.
Learn Teach Lead RE <mailto:Matthew.Edworthy@torbay.gcsx.gov.uk>

Details of your most local RE hub and your local contacts can be found here. RE hubs meet termly after school focussing on networking and improving teaching and learning.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

contact educationevents@exeter.anglican.org; or phone Fran Bradley 01392 294921

Course title: Learn, Teach, Lead – Enhancing RE in the South West

Dates: 16th/17th October 2014
Venue: St. Mellion International Resort, Saltash
Cost: FREE

Keynote Speakers Geoff Teece and Dr Karen Walshe, University of Exeter
Mr Lat Blaylock, RE Adviser, RE Today Services and Editor, RE today magazine
After dinner speech by John Keast OBE, Chair of the RE Council of England and Wales
Plus WORKSHOPS focused on subject knowledge enhancement to support the region's agreed syllabuses and examination courses

Course title: Effective Religious Education

Facilitator: Tatiana Wilson, Diocesan Education Officer
Dates: Thurs 29th Jan
Wed 10th Jun
Time: 09:30 – 15:30
Venue: The Old Deanery, Exeter
Cost: Staff - £180 or £130 subscription rate per person (plus VAT where applicable)
Governors - £80 or £50 subscription rate per person (plus VAT where applicable)

Intended outcomes:

- To enable schools to understand how Religious Education underpins all aspects of SIAMS for VA and VC schools To unpack the Statement of Entitlement for all Learners in Church of England Schools
- To draw on current research findings to understand the current strengths and challenges for RE
- To develop methods for the effective monitoring and assessment for RE including Assessment for Learning
- To look at new resources available to support RE teaching
- To explore the characteristics of effective subject leadership in RE
- To review and develop RE development plans

Course description:

This course is for Subject Leaders, link RE governors and school leaders keen to improve the quality of provision within their school.

Course Title: Compelling RE

Facilitator: Katy Staples

Date: Thurs 12th Feb

Time: 09:30 – 15:30

Venue: The Old Deanery, Exeter

Cost: Staff - £180 or £130 subscription rate per person (plus VAT where applicable)

Governors - £80 or £50 subscription rate per person (plus VAT where applicable)

Intended outcomes:

Attendees will

- be equipped with exciting strategies for raising standards in RE
- gain a deeper understanding of the main features and beliefs of world faiths
- explore how assessment can be effectively managed to monitor progress
- explore how enquiry led learning in RE can ensure pupil engagement

Course description:

This course will help participants gain confidence in understanding the central tenets of 6 major world faiths so they can explain these to other colleagues and inform their own teaching. Different strategies for exciting and challenging RE will be offered and a clear understanding of assessment and progression in RE and how to monitor, this will be explored.

The course is a whole day with a mixture of teaching styles employed, including short presentations, group activity, discussion and open forum. The sessions aim to be friendly, participation is invited and the experience of all members valued.

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Twitter

Look for #REChat

On Oct 6th here again, probably looking at consultation on GCSE & A level criteria, sorry if you are primary but important worth an #rechatuk

You can search previous chats including one over the summer on creative RE as well. A new topic every month tweeting online for an hour together. Tweet @fionajmoss for more information or talk to your local LTLRE hub leader.

RE Quality Mark

This Quality Mark is useful preparation for SIAMS. For more details contact: www.reqm.org or your Diocesan Education Officer. It is also referred to in the following NATRE document.

Resource from NATRE

Helping teachers interpret the DfE standards in relation to RE

What is it for? This is a support tool to help individual teachers interpret the DfE standards in relation to RE. It could be used for self-audit or in the context of professional development. The RE exemplification material simply illustrates the particular RE applications of the general standards and also refers to further helpful sources of information such as the REC's Code of Conduct and Practice for Teachers of RE and the RE Quality Mark's criteria for achieving that award.

Who wrote it? This guidance material was produced jointly by [NATRE](#) members and the Professional Development Committee of the [RE Council](#).

Are RE teachers required to follow it? Unlike the DfE Teacher Standards, this is not a statement of a statutory requirement. It is something teachers can use as they wish to support their own development and for subject leaders to use in work with colleagues. Any suggestions as to how it might be improved will be welcomed.

[Click to download the document](#)

Secondary School RE Mentoring

New to RE? Find the best support for your start here!

Will you be new to secondary RE in September 2014?

Are you hoping to be a newly qualified secondary RE teacher in September 2014? Would you value having an experienced RE teacher/leader as a personal mentor? Are you keen to extend your repertoire of strategies for teaching RE? Would you like support with deepening your subject knowledge, as you teach six religions and other worldviews?

If so you'll be pleased to hear about the New to RE programme from National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE). We have 25 places to offer to NQTs on our three-year early career development programme: New to RE.

Click the flyer to find out more [New to RE 2014 flyer.pdf](#) Complete the application form [New to RE 2014 application form.doc](#)

Managing diversity in the classroom

This years Ofsted framework asks inspectors to examine as to whether pupils are given opportunities to learn how to resolve conflicts and to show mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. Handling contentious beliefs in the RE classroom (particularly at the Secondary level) can be a delicate matter needing careful handling. These materials from the resilience project may be of some use:

<http://resilience-england.recouncil.org.uk/resources/evaluation-and-action-planning-tools>
http://religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/media/file/REsilience_FE_Booklet.pdf <http://resilience-england.recouncil.org.uk/resources/exemplar-lessons>

Materials to enhance RE in the classroom

BBC learning zone clips have moved to this site: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education>

Secondary school pupils in Newham were tasked with an RE photography project to take images to make others question and think about RE and Spirituality - their images can be viewed here and could be a good starter to prompt your students to do something similar.

<http://www.rematters.co.uk/2014/final%20photo%20choices%20and%20words.pdf>

True tube is a website that has some excellent video clips to enhance lessons - the “holy crib” series of films has young people taking people around their places of worship in a frank and open style.

<http://www.truetube.co.uk/film/holy-cribs-mosque>

The enquiry method of teaching RE has provided many teachers with a very effective strategy to achieving pupil engagement. The Church School’s East team website has some very good examples of units of enquiry based RE work <http://www.churchschoolseast.org.uk/enquiry.htm>



East Coast RE teachers have established their own website on which they share their tried and tested classroom resources - there are some excellent ideas on here - all open for sharing and downloading. My favourite which I have used in training and has been very popular is the “Hindu Gods Top trumps game”!

<http://www.ecre.co.uk/downloads.php>

In most primary schools the major Christian Festivals are celebrated each year. In Church of England Primary Schools it is a priority to communicate the Christian narrative held in the seasonal calendar and to offer a children a deeper understanding of the way in which the Christian community celebrates.



It can be a struggle in RE to ensure that pupils from reception to Year 6 are returning to the same story each year but learning something different and of increasing depth and complexity as they progress through the school. Festival Matters is a resource that seeks to address that issue:

<http://www.salisbury.anglican.org/schools/publications/festival-matters>



Collective Worship

These are some generic websites that it is just good to hold in your favourites and trawl through for ideas and inspiration

<http://www.assemblies.org.uk/>

<http://www.collectiveworship.com/>

http://www.ely.anglican.org/education/schools/collective_worship/ideas/YearAB.html

<http://www.worshipworkshop.org.uk/>

Church Schools East offers some excellent resources for Collective worship - for example this one addresses a concern for Church of England Schools at the moment in how to ensure that the Trinity is understood through Collective Worship

<http://www.churchschoolseast.org.uk/documents/WOW19-FatherSonandHolySpirit.pdf>

<http://www.imaginer.co.uk/roots-fruits/>

Class worship



One of the most effective forms of Assemblies/ CW is in smaller groups, so children or young people can participate fully and teachers can share in and observe their pupil's spiritual development.

However often staff feel ill equipped to be able to lead this collective experience and lack the time to add this to their to-do list. These resources offer an easy yet very effective means of enhancing smaller

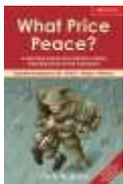
group class or tutor group worship.

Downloadable Diaries of Reflection offer a

<http://www.salisbury.anglican.org/schools/collective-worship/diaries-of-reflection>

Some staff find offering a form of meditation is a way that they feel happy in offering spiritual development in class/tutor worship Many schools testify to the positive effect of giving space to stillness and meditation in the life of their schools. This website offers a Christian rooted form of meditation - but it can easily be adapted to be more inclusive and chimes with much modern practice of mindfulness for well being.

<http://www.cominghome.org.au/>



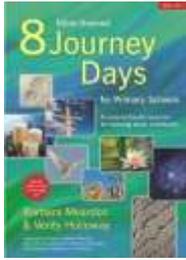
Remembrance and WWI commemoration

Most schools will be marking the Centenary of WWI in some significant way this year and here are some resources that might ensure that there is a spiritual and reflective element to those commemorations.

http://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/assets/downloads/parishlife/worldwar1/reflective_prayer_ideas1.pdf

<http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/about-bible-society/our-work/world-war-1/>

<http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/9781841016917/>



Your local Church Supporting your RE and Collective worship

<http://www.salisbury.anglican.org/schools/publications/journey-days>

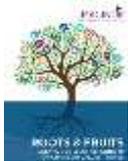
Another useful resource that local people of faith can use to support their local schools by setting up reflective spaces in schools is:

<http://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/home> Rev Cate Edmonds with a team of teachers has developed a series of prayer boxes that schools can borrow free of

charge. Contact cate.edmonds@exeter.anglican.org

COMING SOON

OCTOBER 2014



Roots and Fruits is a 2 year programme of fully worked creative collective worship materials, rooting Christian values in stories from the Bible and linking to seasons of the Church year

“Anxiety does not empty tomorrow of its sorrows, but only empties today of its strength”

Charles Spurgeon.