

# RE Newsletter SPRING 2015



Happy New Year!

*I hope this email finds you well.*

*Apologies that this is a week later than usual but I have been recovering from 'flu. This newsletter comes with our best wishes for a very happy 2015. If you have anything for inclusion in the next newsletter please email [tatiana.wilson@exeter.anglican.org](mailto:tatiana.wilson@exeter.anglican.org)*



## DIOCESE OF EXETER – VACANCY

### **Diocesan Education Officer: Religious Education, Collective Worship and SIAMS Part time 0.4fte Salary £41,000 pa pro rata**

We are looking for an experienced, specialist lead for support in RE, Collective Worship and SIAMS for our 126 Church primary schools. Previous extensive experience in determining, planning and leading central and school based training in these areas, particularly for less confident teachers. Ability to work with the three other DEO's as a team is essential. SIAMS experience as an inspector or trainer would be helpful.

Informal conversations with Philip Mantell, Diocesan Director of Education on 01392 294950 are welcome.

Please download an application form from our website [www.exeter.anglican.org](http://www.exeter.anglican.org) 'Vacancies' section and return it to [recruitment@exeter.anglican.org](mailto:recruitment@exeter.anglican.org)

*Please note this post carries a genuine occupational requirement to be a communicant of the Church of England or a church in communion with it under the Equality Act 2010, and is also subject to a DBS check*

**Closing Date: 12 noon on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

**Interview Date: 27<sup>th</sup> February 2015**



### **So what is new?**

### **Re: Inspections of Religious Education in Voluntary-Aided Schools**

As you will be aware there has been some confusion around the wording in Ofsted's Handbook for Inspectors which until recently stated:

15. *In schools with a religious character, section 5 inspectors may comment on educational issues such as the contribution of assemblies to pupils' personal and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, or the quality of teaching in any subjects, including religious education (RE). In the case of schools without a religious character or voluntary aided or voluntary controlled/foundation schools, academies*

*that were previously voluntary controlled/foundation schools and free schools that are designated as having a religious character, where RE is being provided in line with the locally agreed syllabus, RE is inspected under section 5 of the Education Act 2005 and the RE syllabus.*

An amendment has been made to the Handbook for inspectors which clarifies the position around the role of section 5 inspectors in the evaluation religious education. (See attachment)

However, OFSTED have made it clear that inspectors will visit lessons of any subject to evaluate SMSC including British values, behaviour and safety.

The guidance published by Department for Education relating specifically to the requirements on maintained schools to actively promote fundamental British values. The document outlines the expectations on schools when promoting the identified British values of: democracy; the rule of law; individual liberty; and, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Following some of the high profile cases that have attracted much attention in the media the guidance includes a paragraph of what is not expected of schools. I have highlighted the relevant text in the attached document for your ease. The expectation is that both inspectors and schools are clearer about the way SMSC including British values will be assessed during the inspection process. There is an understanding that church schools secure in their provision based on identifiable and distinctive Christian values, are in a strong position to demonstrate how through those values they are meeting the requirement to promote British values. (See attachment).

## **TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

contact [educationevents@exeter.anglican.org](mailto:educationevents@exeter.anglican.org); or phone Fran Bradley 01392 294921

**Course Title: Compelling RE – not to be missed** Katy is a Diocesan Education Officer and RE Adviser – particularly for those less confident in teaching a range faith traditions

**Facilitator:** Katy Staples

**Date:** Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Course title: Effective Religious Education**

**Facilitator:** Tatiana Wilson, Diocesan Education Officer

**Dates:** Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> Jan

Wed 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **The Christianity Project**

There has been a delay in materials being made available to all schools. A small pilot is happening this term which it is hoped will be expanded to include schools in Exeter Diocese in the summer. Once the materials are developed the expectation for Church schools is that this theological approach is 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>;

## 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://religiuseducationcouncil.org.uk/media/file/DFE\\_Teacher\\_standards\\_2013.pdf](http://religiuseducationcouncil.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](http://www.natre.org.uk/docstore/Voices%20of%20Faith_leaflet.pdf)

## Learn Teach Lead RE

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](http://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>

The Learn Teach Lead RE Conference is 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> October at Dartington Hall – to book a place please contact Fran Bradley at [educationevents@exeter.anglican.org](mailto:educationevents@exeter.anglican.org);

## 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.

### **Subscribe to RE Today Services**

[RE Today Services news](#) When you subscribe to a feed, it is added to the Common Feed List. Updated information from the feed is automatically downloaded to your computer and can be viewed in Internet Explorer and other programs. [Learn more about feeds.](#) [Subscribe to this feed](#)  
**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](http://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://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

**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. Your DEO has a copy if you would like to see it.

Alternatively example downloads are available here <http://www.imaginer.co.uk/roots-fruits/>



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