

RE Newsletter

Autumn Term 2018



A warm welcome to Autumn Term 2018 from everyone on the Education Team at the Diocese of Chichester. This month has seen the publication of the Commission into RE report, which will no doubt generate a lot of discussion and debate. We hope that our termly RE newsletter will help you keep abreast of national and local RE developments and feel a part of the RE subject leader community across the Diocese. If you are new to RE subject leadership, please do get in touch so that we can add you to our contact list and keep you informed about the support and training we provide.

RE News

RE in the new SIAMS Schedule

The new SIAMS schedule comes into effect this September. If you haven't yet seen the new schedule it can be downloaded from the Church of England Education Office website along with a new toolkit. The new schedule places greater emphasis on your school's vision, which should be in line with the Church of England's Vision for Education (Wisdom, Hope, Community and Dignity) and form the basis for everything you do. Inspectors will ask the question 'How effective is the school's distinctive Christian vision established and promoted by leadership at all levels, in enabling pupils and adults to flourish?' and will explore this through seven strands.

The RE section (Strand 7) judges the effectiveness of religious education. Inspectors will explore both the quality of the RE curriculum (to what extent it develops pupils' religious literacy) and the leadership and management of RE (sharing good practice, the extent to which teachers engage in professional development and the school's system of assessment). Schools will need to be able to demonstrate they are delivering a broad and balanced religious education curriculum which allows pupils to explore the core theological concepts of Christianity and the other world religions. There is an expectation that RE will engage with religions as living world faiths, reflecting the lives of people locally and globally, as well as providing a safe space for reflection and spiritual engagement.

The implications of the new schedule for RE subject leaders will be one of the areas for discussion at our Autumn Term Primary RE Network Meetings.

Commission on RE

September 2017 saw the publication of an interim report from the Commission on RE on the future of Religious Education. The final report is now published (September 2018) and makes 11 recommendations on the place of religious education in schools. The Church of England's Chief Education Officer, Nigel Genders, said:

'This report calls for a new vision for Religious Education (RE) which is vital if we are to equip children for life in the modern world where religion and belief play such important roles We fully support the policy of developing a Statement of Entitlement to RE and are pleased to see the Commission endorsing an approach which we already use in Church of England schools..... We look forward to playing our part in working with the education community to achieve this and building an irresistible consensus of agreement about the subject'.

The recommendations in the report cover many areas from what the subject should be called, curriculum recommendations, training recommendations and recommendations about the right of withdrawal. The final report along with an Executive Summary can be found at commissiononre.org.uk. The report and its implications will be discussed at our RE network meetings this term.

Why RE Matters

RE is a statutory subject for all pupils in schools, from 5-18 years of age, serving the purpose of enabling children to become more religiously literate. Media stories that feature issues relating to faith and beliefs continue to hit our headlines from President Trump calling for a national day of prayer, to the news that Justin Bieber is re-dedicating 'his life to Christ'.

The ability to understand the faith or belief of individuals and communities, and how these may shape their culture and behaviour, is an invaluable asset for children in modern day Britain. Explaining religious and non-religious worldviews in an academic way allows young people to engage with the complexities of belief, to avoid stereotyping and to contribute to an informed debate. RE in our church schools should therefore be of a high quality and an essential part of a school's distinctive Christian vision.

Diocese of Chichester RE Network Meetings

We are continuing to run our popular RE network meetings and encourage **all** RE leaders to attend. If you haven't come along before please do get in touch and let us know you are interested in attending. Network meetings are a great way to keep up to date with what is happening the world of RE, find out about the training and support that is available, explore resources, share ideas and expertise and make new friends!

This term we are starting a fourth network meeting for colleagues in the 'northern' part of the Diocese. **All network meetings are free of charge to enable all staff to attend regardless of school budgets.**

The meetings for the Autumn Term 2018 are as follows:

- Tuesday 2nd October 2018 - Primary Network meeting for the Central Area - St Peters CE Primary School, Henfield at 4.30pm
- Tuesday 9th October 2018 - Primary Network meeting for the Western Area - Petworth CE Primary School at 4.30pm
- October 2018 date tbc- Primary Network meeting for the Eastern Area -Seddle-scombe CE Primary School at 4.15pm
- October 2018 date tbc - Primary Network meeting for the Northern Area - St Andrews CE Primary School, Furnace Green Crawley at 4.15pm

Our secondary RE network meetings are as follows:

- Tuesday 9th October 2018 at 4.30pm - school venue to be confirmed
- Tuesday 2nd April 2019 at 4.30 pm, Church House Hove

Understanding Christianity - Update

This year will be the last year we are offering Understanding Christianity training to our schools. Over two thirds of our schools have now completed the training and there is already evidence that it is having an impact. It is the expectation of the Diocese that all our schools should use Understanding Christianity as the basis for meeting the requirements of the Church of England RE Statement of Entitlement for the teaching of Christianity. Subject leaders have found the training invaluable in developing their subject knowledge, confidence and expertise and have really enjoyed getting to know the materials and networking with colleagues. Details of the training are outlined in our Training Programme 2018-2019 which should be available in your staff room. Booking forms and fliers have been sent to all schools at the start of this term. **Please make sure you don't miss out on this final opportunity!** If you have any questions please contact the office at: educationtraining@chichester.anglican.org

Last term Kelly Dillon and Rosie Black undertook monitoring visits to gain evidence about the impact of 'Understanding Christianity' in primary schools. The key findings will be shared with subject leaders at primary RE network meetings with a report to follow. A number of materials to support the use of Understanding Christianity are available on the Diocesan schools' website <http://schools.chichester.anglican.org>

Support and Services

REsource Bank

We have 50 boxes RE resource boxes available for schools to borrow. Boxes can be booked via the Education Office at Church House. We now also have a selection of our most popular boxes at Chichester Cathedral in the west and Peasmarsh CE Primary School in the east. Details about what is contained in the boxes and how to borrow them is available on our website. For further information please contact Yasmin Heasman, our Events & Training Administrator at: educationtraining@chichester.anglican.org
Tel: 01273 425687

RE Training Opportunities

Developing the subject knowledge, expertise and confidence of our RE subject leaders and teachers remains a key priority for us. In addition to Understanding Christianity training, we are offering a number of courses this year which will focus on subject knowledge, curriculum planning, effective leadership and assessment so look out for the following courses in our training programme:

- RS Examination Support Group
- Being a Confident Teacher of Primary RE
- Building on Understanding Christianity - Next Steps
- Moving Forward with RE - The Essential Toolkit

Sharing RE Practice

St Nicolas & St Mary Passion Play



Last term, St Nicolas and St Mary CE Primary School in Shoreham staged a brilliant Passion Play depicting the life of Christ. Children, staff, parents and governors dressed in role and enacted the gospel narrative across a whole day at school. To start the day, everyone experienced a Roman Census, followed by the birth of Christ with a real donkey in a stable created in the school grounds. Next, they visited Joseph's carpentry shop and the Temple indoors, before gathering by the school pond for Jesus' baptism and temptation. Still out-

side, the children saw the calling of the disciples, listened to the Sermon on the Mount (see picture below) and shared bread and fish. After lunch, parables and miracles were celebrated before the Passover Meal was recreated in the school hall. Finally, everyone went outside to the Garden of Gethsemane, followed by the trial, the cross, the resurrection and the ascension of Christ.

The day was led by headteacher, David Etherton, who had the role of Luke the historian and story-teller. The school acts out the Passion every five years so that every child experiences it during their time in primary school. It was a wonderful example of experiential and first-hand learning. If you would like more details of how you could stage your own event then please us know.

It would be lovely to share RE work and practice in each RE newsletter, so please contact us if your school is planning an RE event or you would like to share your RE practice and work.

Useful RE Websites/Organisations

National Association of Teachers of RE (NATRE) (natre.org.uk)



Join Natre and receive the RE Today magazine, discount on conferences and training provided by RE Today, support and ideas for teaching and RE resources.

RE:ONLINE (reonline.org.uk)



REonline provides resources and information on learning, leading, knowing, assessing and supporting RE.

RE Quality Mark (reqm.org)



The RE Quality Mark has been developed to celebrate high quality religious education, providing all schools at primary and secondary level with a framework to capture good practice. You can use the REQM audit tool to help develop high quality RE in your school. Do get in touch if you would like any support in applying for your quality mark award. Also let us know if you plan to go for the award, and of course, when you get it!

Free RE Resources

The Jerusalem Trust

The Jerusalem Trust makes available to schools a number of grants to support the purchase of resources for teaching Christianity in RE. These can include textbooks, teacher resources and artefacts for use in RE lessons. The fund is open to all primary and secondary schools; the maximum amount is £600.

Education Sunday



Education Sunday is now celebrated nationally on Sunday 9th September 2018. However, many schools choose to link with their local church to celebrate Education at other times. Useful resources called 'Gathered in my name' are available on the Churches Together in England Website.

40 acts- Lent Challenge (40acts.org.uk)



40acts is the generosity challenge for Lent, created by the UK Christian charity, Stewardship. For seven years, 40acts has asked a question: what if Lent could be about more than just giving stuff up? What if it could be a time of radical generosity as well as spiritual discipline?

Holocaust Memorial Day 2019 (hmd.org.uk)



The date for Holocaust Memorial Day is 27th January and the theme for 2019 is "Torn from Home." There are useful activities for teaching about the Holocaust from Holocaust Memorial Day Trust.

'I want to go on living even after my death! And that's why I am so grateful to God for having given me this gift, which I can use to develop myself and to express all that's in me. When I write I can shake off all my cares; my sorrow disappears; my spirits are revived.' - Anne Frank, written in her diary, 5 April 1944

Inter Faith Week 2018 (interfaith.org.uk)



Inter Faith Week 2018 will take place from 11-18th November 2018. Take a look at the Inter Faith Network website for inspiration and a toolkit of activities.

Truetube (truetube.co.uk)

Truetube is a useful site that provides videos, lesson plans and assemblies for use in RE, PHSE & Citizenship.



SMSC Quality Mark (smscqualitymark.org.uk)

The SMSC Quality Mark has been launched to ensure that children and young people are able to make a positive difference to the society in which they live – locally, nationally and globally – with the mission of “Empowering young people for a stronger society.”



Young Leaders Award (archbishopofyorkyouthtrust.co.uk)

The Archbishop of York has set up The Youth Trust with a programme of learning in school and action in the community for pupils to achieve the Young Leaders Award. Please contact me if you would like further information or support in taking part in the process.



Walk Through The Bible (bible.org.uk)

Bible Explorer educational programmes are taught to children in Year 5 and Year 6 using storytelling, drama and multi-media to get children excited about the most amazing book of all time.



Christians In Education (christiansineducation.co.uk)

Christians in Education supports all those working in the world of education, challenging individuals to be ‘salt and light’ and inspire people to live out their faith. The next Christians in Education event of 2018 will be on Thursday 15th November from 16.30 to 18.00 at Bishop Hannington Church, Hove.



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Learning with meaning and purpose: to know God and shape the world