

RE Newsletter

Edition 1

Autumn Term 2019



Welcome

Welcome back to the new academic year! If you are new to RE subject leadership do make sure that you let us have your contact details so that you can be sure to receive the newsletter and training opportunities via email.

Both the new SIAMS schedule and Ofsted framework require schools to be very clear about their vision and how this vision informs and shapes all aspects of school life. One area which has a large focus is curriculum. The Diocesan RE advisers have spent several years considering the RE curriculum, many aspects of which have been shared in our Understanding Christianity and RE training sessions. In this Autumn Term newsletter I therefore want to take the opportunity to focus on the importance of ensuring that the purpose of RE is clear. In church schools it can sometimes be confusing for staff to distinguish the lines between RE, Collective Worship and the Christian ethos of the school. However, it is important to be clear about where these lines sit.

Also, in this edition of the newsletter, is an update on resources, training and RE network meetings. Make sure you take a look at our new training brochure which is available on our website. A training poster has also been sent to all schools, so do make sure this is pinned up in your staff room!

As always, I would love to share what you are doing in school. A big thank you to St. Thomas' Winchelsea for sharing some of their RE work in this edition. If you have anything to share for our next edition please do get in touch.

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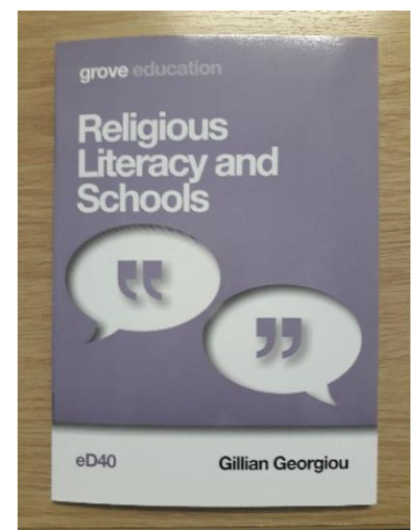
Sharing

RE Curriculum

It is very important that teachers in our schools are clear about how RE is distinct from other aspects of being a church school. The RE Statement of Entitlement, sets out the CE expectations for RE in church schools and is based on the recognition of RE as a distinct academic subject, with a clear body of knowledge and different academic disciplines through which to explore this content. In addition, the SIAMS schedule requires that schools consider how RE is an expression of the school's distinctive Christian vision. Schools therefore need to be clear about their vision and clear about the design and purpose of RE. The Christian values of the school should be no more of a focus in RE lessons than in any other curriculum area – they should permeate all aspects of school life. Pupils who are knowledgeable, articulate and confident to talk about the contribution of religion and belief in the world will be engaging with the Christian character of the school. If pupils are 'religiously literate' they will be contributing to the religious character of the school.

This year we have put a new set of RE training courses together which will focus on RE curriculum design and provision. In addition, I am updating our Diocesan RE guidance booklets, which will be available via our website.

Gillian Georgiou, RE Adviser in the Diocese of Lincoln has also just produced a booklet as part of the Grove Education series entitled 'Religious Literacy and Schools' (July 2019) which should be on the reading list of all our school and RE leaders



Updates

RE Statement of Entitlement

A quick reminder that the Church of England Education Office produced a new RE Statement of Entitlement in February 2019. This document is available to download from their website and from our Chichester Education website (<https://schools.chichester.anglican.org>). It is important that all school leaders and RE subject leaders are familiar with this document. The expectations set out in the Statement of Entitlement are incorporated into the SIAMS schedule and inspectors will be looking to see that these expectations are met, when making their judgement about a school.

Emmanuel Project CD

As many of you will already be aware, I have advocated that schools consider purchasing the RE units of work produced by the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich (The Emmanuel Project CD) to help them deliver the syllabus requirements for teaching other faiths and worldviews. At the request of The Church of England Education Office, this resource is currently being updated by Helen Matter, so that it can become a more widely used resource with new assessment materials. I will provide schools with details as soon as this resource becomes available.

REsource Bank

A reminder that we have around 50 boxes of RE resources in our REsource Bank housed here at Church House, Hove. These boxes can be loaned for a 6 week period and are free for all Partnership Agreement Church CE schools and all community schools in Brighton and Hove. A full list of the boxes and their contents, as well as the loan request form and other important documents, can be found on our website [<https://schools.chichester.anglican.org>]. In addition to these boxes, some duplicate boxes are housed at Chichester Cathedral, Department of Learning and Engagement and at Pevensey CE School. All details can be found on our website.

Diocesan Training and Support

We have a new and exciting training package for this academic year. All details, including a training calendar poster have been emailed to schools, so if you have not seen these please do check our website and make sure you download the poster to pin up in your staffroom.

We have many new courses on RE and SIAMS focusing on vision, curriculum design and developing RE subject knowledge. We have a new RE Subject Leader course and several courses which are designed for class teachers to build on Understanding Christianity school training. In particular, I would like to highlight the following courses which are specifically designed for schools who may have a new RE subject lead in post this year, new teachers in post or teachers who would like to develop their confidence and expertise:

RE for NQTS

Effective RE Subject Leadership – for RE subject leaders new to the role

Using Understanding Christianity to Deliver High Quality RE – phase specific days designed to help class teachers use UC effectively and develop their own confidence and expertise

Understanding Christianity Refresher Training – for schools who have completed the UC training but now have a new RE subject leader in post

I am also delighted to let you know that we have booked the Jewish Museum of London to deliver a course on Judaism.

Enquire Into Judaism

Wednesday 27th November 2019

10.30 – 4.00

Diocesan Church House, Hove

Limited numbers so book early to avoid disappointment!



Look out for 'Enquire Into Islam' which will be delivered in April 2020.

RE Network Meetings

This year I have set the dates and venues for the whole year to help you organize your calendar. If you can't make the usual meeting hopefully you will be able to come along to an alternative meeting. Unfortunately, we are not able to run a Central North venue this year as we did not have enough schools attending last year to make this a viable group. **Although these meetings are free**

for all schools, it is essential that you book via Eventbrite in order to register a place. All schools have been sent a flyer with a link to Eventbrite and all details can be found on our website. Please note that if there are insufficient bookings meetings may be cancelled.

This year I would also like to invite secondary colleagues to attend the meetings.

At each meeting there will be the opportunity to:

- ❖ share news, expertise and ask questions,
- ❖ receive updates from the Diocese
- ❖ focus on a particular theme & develop classroom materials

Each meeting will be: 4.15 – 5.45

REPN Central

Autumn	Monday 7 th October 2019	Albourne CE Primary School
Spring	Monday 3 rd February 2020	St Andrew's CE Primary (Nuthurst)
Summer	Monday 8 th June 2020	St Peter's CE Primary (Henfield)

REPN East

Autumn	Thursday 10 th October 2019	All Saints' CE Junior Academy (Hastings)
Spring	Thursday 13 th February 2020	Guestling-Bradshaw CE Primary (tbc)
Summer	Thursday 11 th June 2020	Christchurch CE Primary Academy (St Leonards)

REPN West

Autumn	Tuesday 8 th October 2019	Nyewood CE Junior School (Bognor Regis)
Spring	Wednesday 5 th February 2020	St Margaret's CE School (Angmering)
Summer	Thursday 25 th June 2020	Arundel CE Primary School

REquest

Thank you to St Thomas' Winchelsea for sharing these photos of creative RE work done during their RE days.

Creative work in response to the question, 'What is the good news that Jesus brings?'



Reception & Year 1 exploring the question 'Why do Christians put a cross in an Easter garden?'



A creative depiction of the cross in response to 'Why does Easter matter to Christians?'

I am very keen to share examples of RE work and practice in every RE newsletter, so am sending out this plea for photos of your RE class work, displays, RE days, project, visits etc..... Please email two or three photos along with a short explanation to me at the email address printed on this newsletter.

Resources



Big Start Assemblies – Important Update

Since 2017 the Diocese has paid a fee so that all our primaries had a yearly subscription to Big Start Assemblies. For the academic year 2019/2020 schools will be required to pay for their own subscription. Big Start Assemblies are offering a 30% discount on the annual subscription for this year. To continue with your subscription and to obtain your discount visit www.bigstartassemblies.org/plans/bsa-subscriptions and use the coupon code BSA30 CHI. For information about the subscription plans please contact Big Start Assemblies on support@bigstartassemblies.org

Collective Worship Resource

'William and Lucy Lead Collective Worship'

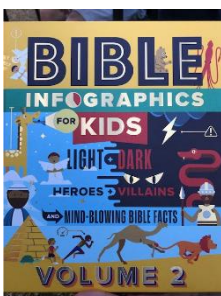
This new resource book focuses on William and Lucy who are worship leaders in their primary school as they explore how to plan, prepare and present different ways of everyone getting involved

The resource includes

- a story book illustrating the different elements within an act of collective worship
- support materials for teachers to 'train up' their collective worship leaders



For details about how to purchase this resource please visit the Diocese of Canterbury website.



Bible Infographics

A whole new way of seeing the Bible! There are two volumes for children, bringing different aspects of the Bible to life for younger readers.

Wintershall Education

Wintershall Education have many exciting projects on offer to schools, including advent workshops, Nativity production and the 'Life of Christ' production (which runs from Thursday 23rd – Saturday 27th June 2020). All details about events and materials can be found at www.wintershall-education.com

Focus on RE Websites/Organisations

RE:online (reonline.org.uk)



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

RE:quest (www.RE:quest.org.uk)

RE:quest

Has information on the Bible and how it is used, festivals and celebrations, Jesus, Christian life, people and places, issues and lots more

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