

# RE Newsletter

## Autumn Term 2020



### New Beginnings

It is a very strange start to the academic year. I am sure that you were delighted to welcome back all your pupils to school this September but as I write, the headlines about Covid-19 are not good. Let's hope and pray that schools are able to remain open and that all pupils can continue their education in our classrooms and not via a screen.

The team here have missed visiting you in your schools but would like to thank you for your hard work and continued dedication to your pupils. We do hope, that at some point this term, we will be able to visit you. I very much enjoyed delivering two days of inset training at the start of September. It was so lovely to meet people and to have a break from standing at my computer for 8 hours a day!

The team will be delivering lots of new training this year. Initially this will be online, which will save you the drive to Church House, so do look out for our courses. I am aware that there will be many new RE subject leaders so also look out for information about our RE Network Meetings will be online and are free for all Partnership Agreement schools.

As always, debate and discussion continue within the world of education about curriculum design, working memory, long term memory, retrieval practice etc. These all have interesting implications for our RE teaching and I look forward to working with you during the year to move our thinking forward together and share ideas and good practice.

#### Inside this edition

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Although this is a RE newsletter, I know that many of you have multiple roles and responsibilities, so I have included updates about SIAMS, collective worship and RHSE in this edition.

### SIAMS Update

SIAMS inspections are suspended at the moment. This means that there will be no SIAMS inspections during the Autumn Term. We are awaiting further information from the Church of England Education Office and will obviously share any updates with you.

This term I recommend, if you have some subject leader time, that you review your RE curriculum to ensure that you can answer the following questions:

- How does your school's vision inform your RE curriculum?
- Why do you teach what you teach in RE? What difference would it make if pupils don't learn these things? (You will need to be able to justify you're the choices you have made in putting together your RE long-term plan and explain how they reflect the school vision).
- How are your school's values reflected in RE units and classroom practice?

## Collective Worship Update



The regulations governing collective worship have not changed during this time. The requirement to hold a daily act of collective worship therefore still applies to schools. The current Covid-19 protocols mean that almost all our schools will not be able to hold whole school or large group worship. I know that class, group or 'bubble' worship cannot replace whole school worship which is central to the life of schools. However, bubble worship does present some opportunities. I have produced some guidance on 'bubble' worship for those who would like some support with planning. This can be downloaded from the Collective Worship page of our diocesan education website.

## Relationships and Sex Education Update



Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the DfE has issued new guidance about the implementation of the new RSHE curriculum. This term schools need to ensure that they draw up a clear timeline for implementation and that they start to teach the new requirements from January 2021. Our website contains lots of materials and links to help you deliver the RHSE curriculum in church schools. We have produced a guidance booklet on Relationships and Sex Education which explores RSE within the context of church of England schools and includes background for teachers on the position of the Church of England with regard to relationships and identity.

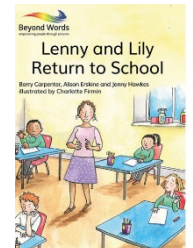
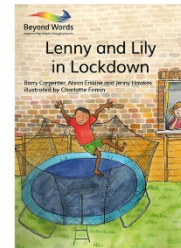
Katy Staples, author of 'Valuing All God's Children', has written a fabulous new online resource called 'Goodness and Mercy' which provides comprehensive advice, planning guidance, templates and assessment materials to enable you to deliver RHSE effectively in a church school. <https://goodnessandmercy.co.uk/>



## Recovery Curriculum

There is some confusion around the precise meaning of the term 'recovery curriculum'. In some contexts, it refers to the focus on English and Maths in order to enable pupils to catch up on their learning. In other contexts, it is linked to mental health and well-being of pupils. A variety of resources have been published to help schools support pupils returning to school after lockdown.

The Lenny and Lily stories are structured around the 5 Losses and 5 Levers of the Recovery



Curriculum. [www.recoverycurriculum.org](http://www.recoverycurriculum.org)  
Supporting text at the end of each story gives teaching staff and parents guidance on how to use the stories with children. Both stories are available to download for free from: [www.booksbeyondwords.co.uk/lenny-and-lily-childrens-stories](http://www.booksbeyondwords.co.uk/lenny-and-lily-childrens-stories)

## Thinking about Curriculum

It is really important as subject leaders that you can justify and explain the choices you make when putting together your long-term plans. Professional associations provide excellent materials and resources to support curriculum design. As RE leads we can learn a lot from educational thinking and discussion taking place in other subject areas, particularly the humanities. I recommend all schools consider taking out membership of NATRE (National Association of Teacher of RE) and look at joining the Historical Association ([www.history.org.uk](http://www.history.org.uk)) and Geographical Association ([www.geography.org.uk](http://www.geography.org.uk)).

## Black History Month 1 – 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020



October is Black History Month and this year it will have special significance. There has been a

great deal in the news around the Black Lives Matter campaign. There are a number of excellent websites which can support your thinking around Black History Month. Good starting points are:

- [www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk](http://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk)
- The Runnymede Trust – publications and resource section [www.runnymedetrust.org](http://www.runnymedetrust.org)
- The Black Curriculum - which has free learning resources [www.theblackcurriculum.org](http://www.theblackcurriculum.org)
- BBC Black and British – if you google this you can find out about a season of programmes originally shown in 2016. A number are still accessible online.

### Mayflower 400

[www.Mayflower400uk.org](http://www.Mayflower400uk.org)



This year marks the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower to America. The Mayflower finally set sail on 6 September 1620. The voyage and subsequent founding of settlements by the 'Pilgrim Fathers' present an opportunity for schools to consider a number of issues which relate to RE including religious freedom and freedom of expression as well as issues relating to Britain's colonial past. The Mayflower website includes a number of educational resources for schools exploring the complex story of the pilgrims and their journey, an interactive passenger list, profiles of the pilgrims and much more.

### Rebuilding Community – Rebuilding the Wall



Rebuilding Community – Rebuilding the Wall is a suite of resources written by diocesan advisers from Canterbury, Guildford, Rochester and St. Albans to support schools rebuilding their communities following lockdown. It is inspired by the Old Testament books of Ezra and Nehemiah.

The suite of resources contains a number of packs:

- Pack 1 – Reflecting on the Challenge – reflections for school leaders
- Pack 2 – Refreshing the Body, Mind and Spirit – reflection and prayer activities
- Pack 3 - Reconnecting – practical resources with a focus on well-being
- Pack 4 – Acts of Worship
- Pack 5 – guidance on curating an age-appropriate Leavers' Service

The resources can be accessed from [the Diocese of Canterbury Education website](http://the Diocese of Canterbury Education website).

### RE Network Meetings



The autumn term and Spring term RE Network meetings will take place on-line. I hope that by the summer term we may be able to hold a face-to-face meeting. At our last summer term network, we trialled an online meeting starting at 4.15 so that teachers had the option to go home or stay at school.

This term we are providing a choice of two dates. We hope that the dates and times will enable you to get home if you want and need to ( I know some schools do deep cleans at this time) but will also work for those colleagues who are staying at school. Please do let me know if these times don't work for you and what time would be better.

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 4.30 – 6.00pm**  
**Or**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November 4.30 -6.00pm**

The meetings will be held on ZOOM. Please contact Yasmin, our training administrator to register your interest in attending and she will make sure that you are sent an invitation link and information about how to access Zoom. Without an invitation you will not be able to join the network meeting. Please let [Yasmin](mailto:Yasmin) know which session you would like to join.

**To register your interest please email:**

[educationtraining@chichester.anglican.org](mailto:educationtraining@chichester.anglican.org)

## Training and Support



### RE Today training for Secondary Colleagues

This year the Diocese has joined with RE Today to deliver training for secondary RE colleagues. Over the year RE Today will deliver a mix of online and face to face training courses.

This term we have online courses on:

- Improving GCSE outcomes
- Help! I'm the Secondary RE teacher - aimed at non-specialist secondary colleagues
- Preparing for Inspection: Intent, Implementation and Impact.

We hope to invite secondary colleagues from other dioceses to take part in these sessions enabling you to extend your networks. If there are any specific courses that you would like us to deliver please let me know as we can tailor the training to suit your needs.

As part of our training package we are also delivering 2 1xhour webinars 'Teaching about Islam'. One webinar is for primary colleagues and one for secondary. These will be made available shortly and can be accessed in your own time. More information will be sent to schools in the near future providing details about how to access these webinars and all the other training.

### Diocesan Training or Primary Colleagues and Senior Leaders

During lockdown I have put together a completely new training package which can be delivered online in short sessions. It would be lovely to think that by the spring or summer term we can meet face to face.

Most training courses will be either 'getting started' courses - aimed at teachers, subject leaders and senior leaders who are new to their roles or have not had recent training and are in need of a refresher - or 'moving forward' courses where participants can take their learning a little deeper. We hope to offer alternative dates/times for all courses - after school

sessions and school time sessions – to suit your timetables. Further information will be sent to all schools via email and the e-bulletin as well as via our education website where you will find details about registering and booking.

### Keep an eye out for new courses on

- Getting Started as RE Subject Leader
- Moving Forward as RE Subject Leader
- Moving Forward as a Great Church School
- Getting started with Great RE
- Planning Great RE Using UC effectively
- Curriculum Design
- RE Curriculum Design – Intent, Implementation and Impact

## Upcoming Events

Put the date in your diary!



### Collective Worship Conference for teachers and clergy Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

Following our very successful conference on RE, the south east dioceses are organising a joint conference on Collective Worship. The conference date is Wednesday 26th May 2021. Further details will be sent to all schools in the new year. We hope that the conference can be held at the Salvation Army HQ in Denmark Hill London. We will keep you posted....!

## Liturgical Calendar



A liturgical calendar for the academic year 2020-2021 has been put together and is available on our education website. This calendar includes information and links for Christian festivals and Saints' days as well as dates and links to major festivals in other religions.

## REsource Bank



The Diocese has over 50 boxes of RE resources which can be loaned by schools each half term. These boxes are free to all partnership agreement schools and all community schools in Brighton and Hove.

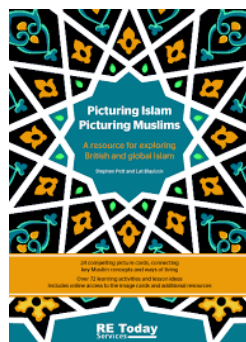
As result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Learning and Engagement Team at Chichester Cathedral have been made redundant. We are therefore looking for a new home for the duplicate REsource bank resources boxes which are housed at the Cathedral. If you are a school in the west of the Diocese and have the space to house these boxes please contact [Vanessa Vollebregt](mailto:Vanessa.Vollebregt@chichester.anglican.org), the REsource Bank administrator at [vanessa.vollebregt@chichester.anglican.org](mailto:vanessa.vollebregt@chichester.anglican.org) We would love to hear from you!

At present the Diocesan team are primarily working from home and there are restricted opening hours for Church House. Sadly, this means that this term we are unable to administer the REsource Bank loan scheme. If you are in real need of resources please contact Vanessa to discuss this.

## Useful Publications and Resources

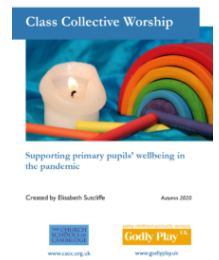
### Picturing Islam/ Picturing Muslims

RE Today have published a new picture pack to support the teaching of Islam. It is similar to the Picturing Christianity pack and is designed to reflect the diversity of practice and belief across the Muslim community.



## Class Collective Worship

Godly Play UK have produced a resource for class collective worship. These materials have been written specifically for Autumn 2020 to support the wellbeing and spiritual needs of pupils returning to school.



Themes and stories have been chosen to resonate with some of the challenges arising for children during the pandemic. The publication is free to download from

<https://www.godlyplay.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Collective-Worship-Autumn-2020.pdf>

### Walk Through the Bible

have produced for KS2, 10 x 20 minute 'Free' videos - each with a short activity part way through. They have done all the preparation, you just need to press play - and encourage your children to join in. Their teacher PDF Pack includes activity outlines and extension materials. <https://www.bible.org.uk/video-lessons.php>



## Further support

For further support please contact me:

Rosemary Black

CD, RE & SIAMS Manager

[Rosemary.black@chichester.anglican.org](mailto:Rosemary.black@chichester.anglican.org)

For information about training please contact:

Yasmin Heasman

Training Administrator

[educationtraining@chichester.anglican.org](mailto:educationtraining@chichester.anglican.org)

For information about the REsource Bank resources please contact:

[vanessa.vollebregt@chichester.anglican.org](mailto:vanessa.vollebregt@chichester.anglican.org)

Diocese of Chichester Education website:

<https://schools.chichester.anglican.org>