

RE Newsletter

Spring Term 2021



New Beginnings - 2021

As I write this newsletter Boris Johnson has just announced another national lockdown and school closures for most pupils! It does feel a bit like Ground Hog Day! I hope that you managed to have a good Christmas, despite the restrictions, and that you were able to take a well-deserved break and rest from school.

This term is once again going to be a challenge as you provide both classroom based and on-line learning. I would encourage you to take a look at the blogs and online resources listed in this newsletter and the resources and materials provided by the different subject associations. Associations such as the Historical Association have hubs where teachers can share online learning materials and these are generally free to access.

If your school is not a member of NATRE (National Association for Teachers of RE) I would strongly encourage you consider taking out membership, as this entitles you to access RE Today online materials and resources as well as receiving their magazines and monthly downloads. I have also included information in this newsletter about the NATRE annual conference (Strictly RE) which is online this year and spread over a weekend (30 -31st January 2021).

The statutory requirement for a daily act of collective worship has not changed during this pandemic. I know that it is challenging for teachers to plan and deliver inspiring worship in their classrooms everyday, so I have provided a

reminder of some of the materials you can access via our website to help you with your planning.

Diocese of Chichester training will continue to be delivered online this term. Thank you for your patience last year as we got to grips with Zoom and Teams. This term we are endeavouring to offer training at different times, as we know that your routines are quite complicated, but will primarily be using Zoom rather than Teams. We found Teams rather unreliable last term!

As with previous newsletters, I am including a number of items and information about resources in this newsletter which go beyond RE. However, I know that many of you have multiple responsibilities in school, so I hope that you find these helpful.

Inside this edition

- SIAMS update
- Training Information
- Collective Worship update
- RHSE update
- RE Networks
- Resources & Publications

SIAMS Update

SIAMS inspections continue to be suspended. This means that there will be no SIAMS inspections during the Spring Term. They are scheduled to start in the Summer term.

You may be aware that there is a proposal for the national integration of SIAMS. Under this

proposal all the administration for inspections will be dealt with by a national CE team. This new arrangement means that the diocesan team can focus solely on providing support and advice to you, rather than having to spend time on administration. The national team will also be putting together a national team of inspectors. Inspectors are likely to work on a regional basis and will not inspect within a Diocese in which they might work. The new arrangements also mean that you will be notified of an inspection by a member of the national SIAMS team and not by staff at the Diocese.

As a result of SIAMS being suspended there are over 1500 inspections nationally which need to be rescheduled. Scheduling is obviously done at a national level and in discussion with the DfE (who fund the inspections) so at this moment in time it is unclear how the catch up of inspections will be done. However, the CE central team are very aware of the pressures that school leaders and teachers are under during this pandemic and will be sensitive to this as they start to put together the new inspection schedules. We will keep you informed as soon as we have any additional information.

In preparation for the resumption of inspections I suggest that you:

- Keep some notes/evidence of what you have done during the pandemic – the arrangements you made, the initiatives and projects you put in place, the support you provided for pupils and families etc as these are likely to form a key part of the discussion about how your vision shaped your provision during this time.
- Review the key actions from the last SIAMS inspection so that you can provide evidence of how they have been addressed and the difference this had made
- Reflect on your school vision/ vision statement to ensure it reflects your school context, is forward looking, includes adults as well as pupils and is still fit for purpose.

For RE Subject leaders the tips I outlined in the last newsletter still apply. So, if you have some subject leader time spend a few moments reviewing 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?
- What did you put in place to ensure pupils received their entitlement to RE during the pandemic?

Collective Worship



The Church of England team are currently working on a 'Statement of Entitlement' for Collective Worship. The statement is currently in draft form. We will keep you informed and make sure that you receive a copy when it is approved and published.

As has been the case during the previous 'lockdowns' the statutory requirements governing the daily act of collective worship have not changed. I appreciate that collective worship cannot take place as a whole school and presents particular challenges for class teachers. During last year I put together a short pamphlet with tips for 'bubble' worship and one which listed resources and websites to help you plan and deliver collective worship. They can both be found on the [collective worship page of our website](#).

A number of my Diocesan colleagues are particularly skilled at writing collective worship and I encourage you to take a look at the collective worship pages of the Guildford Diocese website, Canterbury Diocese and to visit the

school section of the CE Growing Faith website for collective worship to use in your classrooms. Our own website contains information and links about collective worship resources and websites.

To support schools during the Covid pandemic Big Start Assemblies is providing all church schools in Chichester **free access** to their online materials. Schools will need to sign up specifically using the link:

<https://bigstartassemblies.org/plans/cofe-schools/>

and key in the code which was sent to your school via email from our director.

Big Start Assemblies have also confirmed CofE schools and academies can make use of these BSA resources during lockdown and share them with their pupils/parents through a secure portal. This could include a private Google Drive or an online learning portal, such as Moodle, just as long as it is private to their school network and not placed platforms such as their school website where these resources are easily accessible to everyone.

To find out about the offer or if you have any individual inquiries you can contact BSA on info@bigstartassemblies.org

Relationships and Sex Education Update



A reminder that we have put together Diocesan guidance about RSE. This document can be downloaded from [the RSE page of our education website](#). We have also listed other materials and links to help you deliver the RHSE curriculum. The latest government guidance states that all schools should be ready to deliver the new curriculum from summer term 2021.

Don't forget to take a look at the new online resource 'Goodness and Mercy' written by Katy Staples, author of 'Valuing All God's Children'. This provides comprehensive advice, planning guidance, templates and assessment materials to



enable you to deliver RHSE effectively in a church school. <https://goodnessandmercy.co.uk/>

RE Network Meetings



This term's primary and secondary RE network meetings will once again take place online via ZOOM. I hope that by the summer term we may be able to hold a face-to-face meeting!

The dates for the meetings are listed below:

Primary Network Meeting:

Wednesday 24th February 2021 4.30 – 6.00pm
Or

Thursday 25th February 2021 4.30 – 6.00pm

Secondary HODS Network:

Wednesday 24th March 2021 2.00 – 4.00pm.
Angela Hill from RE Today will be joining us and Grace Waker from SGS has kindly agreed to talk about the new WS RE Syllabus which is being launched in April.

In order to receive the invitation to these meetings you will need to register for the meeting using the [Eventbrite link](#) provided on the flyer. The flyer for this meeting along with flyers for all our training courses have been emailed to schools but can also be found on the training page of our education website. If you have problems please contact Yasmin, our training administrator. Without registering you will not be able to join the network meeting.

My aim for the summer meeting is to have a face to face meeting along with tea and cake so that we can share RE work and continue our focus on systems for assessing and making judgements about RE.

Training and Support



All our training courses will be delivered online for this term. We have new courses for RE leads, and class teachers. I am running the Using UC training for class teachers again this term as it proved very popular last term. I am also hoping to

deliver phase specific face to face training days on UC units in the summer term. All details and training courses can be found on the training pages of our website.

Our collaboration with **RE Today** continues for the remainder of the year. If you are a secondary colleague, please look out for the many courses being offered in the spring and summer terms as these have been put together based on feedback from you last year. I know those colleagues who attended RE Today courses last term found them to be excellent.

I am also working with RE Today advisers to try to put on a whole RE day for both secondary and primary colleagues at the end of the summer term. Further information will be shared with you in the near future once we are clearer about the situation.

Farmington Institute Scholarships

The deadline for applications for a Farmington Fellowship is 31st



January 2021. Applications are welcomed from Headteachers, Primary and Secondary teachers and teachers of RE to children with special educational needs. The scholarships are for:

- Head teachers who wish to undertake research into values and standards in schools, school leadership, school improvement, or religious education;
- teachers of Religious Education and associated subjects in UK secondary schools and primary school
- RE co-ordinators or other primary school teachers involved in teaching RE
- teachers of children with Special Educational Needs who are involved with RE.

Applicants should have completed at least two years in their present post. Head teachers may study any subject that would be of benefit to their school. School teacher scholars are free to study any aspect of Religious Education or

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associated subjects they wish but preference will be given to applicants whose work can be seen to be of direct value to the teaching of RE in schools. The Institute, in conjunction with one of its partner universities or colleges, may sometimes advertise for an RE teacher to undertake research on a specific topic which is relevant to RE.

RE Competition for Pupils

Culham St Gabriel's Trust has just launched a



competition for pupils to write an RE Blog about why Religious Education/ Religion & Worldviews is important to them as a subject. The closing date is 31st March 2021. All the details about this competition and the prizes can be found @ [Pupil Blog Competition - RE: Online](#)

Professional Development – Further Reading



As you may be aware a number of reports and books on the teaching of RE and worldviews have been published over the last year or two. Within the RE world there are many discussions and debates taking place about the 'worldview paradigm' and it is hoped that more teachers will engage with these discussions over the coming months. It is important that primary and secondary teachers and pupils in our schools can get involved in the debate and can help to shape the future of the subject.

If you are interested in finding out more about these conversations, you might want to take a look at the following publications.

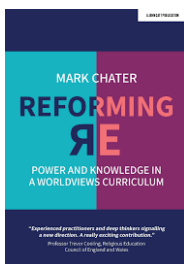
Commission on RE Religion and Worldviews: The Way Forward 2018

The Commission on Religious Education set out a national plan for religious education in September 2018.



Reforming RE

Mark Chater's book makes a case for the radical reform of religious education. The book includes many contributions from leading experts and practitioners and explores different views and perspectives on a way forward for RE.



Worldview Literature Review

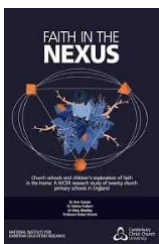
The Worldview Literature Review is a multidisciplinary academic literature review on the worldview concept. This was prepared by three academics working in different disciplines in different universities.



And on a different note -

Faith in the Nexus

The Faith in the Nexus research project has identified the fruitful ways in which twenty church primary schools (working in collaboration with churches and other interested stakeholders) facilitate opportunities for the exploration of children's faith/spiritual life in the home.



The research findings emerged from research focus group interviews with 450 participants (pupils, parents & staff), and an online survey with 1000 participants across 20 church primary schools in England.

Dates for Your Diary



Holocaust Memorial Day - 27th January 2021

Holocaust Memorial Day is 27th January 2021. The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust provides excellent



free resources and materials for Primary and Secondary schools. (<https://www.hmd.org.uk/resources>)

Collective Worship Conference postponed until 2022

Unfortunately, the South East and East Dioceses advisers made the decision at the end of last term to postpone our planned Collective Worship conference until 2022! We are hoping to hold it on the same dates 26th May 2022 but will keep you posted!

NATRE Strictly RE - 30 -31st January 2021

The Strictly RE Conference this year is taking place virtually. If you haven't booked a place take a look at the NATRE website for information.



Diocese of Chichester Education Website

Don't forget to take a look at our education website. Many of the pages listed in this newsletter can be found under the '[Christian Distinctiveness](#)' tab at the top of the homepage. We are updating resources and materials on a regular basis and also provide links to other Dioceses' resources and other websites. Information about our training and support programme, with flyers and registration details are available via the Training page.



REsource Bank

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. However, a few schools have



requested resource boxes and we have been able to make these available for individual schools to collect. Additional protocols are required at this time which are discussed with schools on a one to one basis. If you wish to loan some of our resource boxes please email vanessa.vollebregt@chichester.anglican.org

Useful Publications and Resources

There are a number of useful blogs which offer advice and suggestions for online learning.



In her March post last year Nikki McGee shared her approach to whole class feedback and online learning with her RS GCSE and A Level students. Her blogs can be found at rewithmrsmcgee.wordpress.com.

For more general classroom use you can find a helpful summary of blogs on remote teaching at <https://classteaching.wordpress.com/2021/01/05>

Religious Education Lockdown Learning Southwark Diocese



This pdf has been produced by my colleague in Southwark Diocese. It provides a summary of some websites which will be of use to you when planning online RE learning or classroom RE during this challenging time. The pdf was sent in our Education Department e-newsletter earlier this term and can also be downloaded from our website.

Westminster Abbey

<https://www.westminster-abbey.org/learning/teaching-resources>



Since the start of the pandemic Westminster Abbey has produced online and virtual materials. The growing catalogue of free, downloadable resources cover a variety of subject areas and key stages and enable pupils to explore Westminster Abbey from the classroom.

Oak National Academy

Produce free online resources to support classroom and home-based learning.



Inspired Classrooms

This toolkit gives you the ideas, lessons



and resources to help build a full cross-curricular day of learning within your local parish church. It will empower and enable both schools and churches to fully realise the learning opportunities that exist within these 'Inspired Classrooms'. During this time when visits are not allowed the website also provides a link to 'virtual' churches.

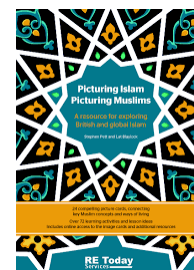
Bullying and Belief Toolkit

Claire Clinton (RE Matters) in collaboration with a number of organisations and Newham SACRE has written a new publication on Bullying and Belief which can be found on this [link](#).



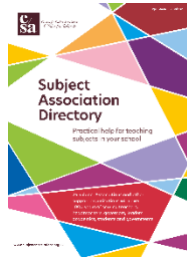
Picturing Islam/ Picturing Muslims

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.



Council for Subject Associations

The Council For Subject Associations has produced a Directory for the different associations. Many subject associations, such as the Historical Association provide excellent resources and teaching materials which can support both classroom and home learning.



Further support

For further support please contact me:

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For information about training please contact:

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Training Administrator

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For information about the REsource Bank resources please contact:

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Diocese of Chichester Education website:

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

