

RE News 3

Spring Term 2023



In this news I thought it would be useful to provide an outline of a few resources and websites which can support the provision of high quality RE in your school. Some are new and others I hope you will already be familiar with.

British Library - KS 2 Resources on Sacred Texts

The British Library has just released a set of materials for KS2 pupils which explore sacred texts. The resources introduce students to diverse sacred texts and worldview traditions from the following six religions: Buddhism, Christianity, Hindu tradition, Islam, Judaism and Sikhi. Focussing on key texts, images and short film clips, the lessons enable students to:



- Develop observation and enquiry skills through a series of activities
- Develop understanding of the importance and significance of sacred texts
- Make connections to how each religion is practiced by people today
- Learn through creative activities
- Encourage students to reflect on their learning and make connections within and between religions and worldviews.

As exploring sacred texts is such an important part of 'Balanced RE' this is a great resource to draw on. Materials can be incorporated into your existing units of work to supplement resources you already use. The materials can be downloaded from the British Library website. <https://www.bl.uk/sacred-texts/activities/key-stage-2-teaching-resources>

The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion

The Faraday Institute has developed some 'Crash Courses in Science and Religion' for secondary teachers. One session explores how Science and RE can be used to challenge racism and explore the big bang and bioethics (13th March). The other explores climate change, how to read Genesis and



ways of knowing in science and religion (20th March). Each twilight session costs £50. You can sign up for these sessions at [faraday.institute/secondaryRE](https://www.faraday.institute/secondaryRE).

The Bible Society - Gospels In Schools

The Bible Society has produced a new resource 'Gospels in Schools' for teachers to help support exploration of sacred texts/ extracts with pupils. A

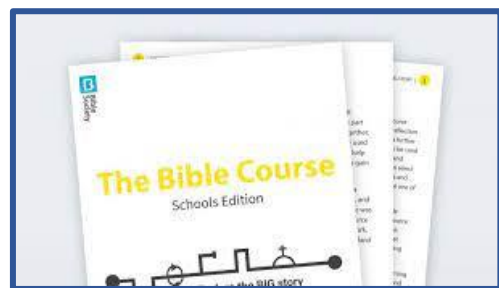


free training session is being held online on 22 March

2023 at 3.45 where Huw Thomas, Director of Education for the Diocese of Sheffield will talk about how to get the most out of the resource. To find out more please visit the Bible

Society UK resources section. <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/education/>

The Bible Society has also produced an 8 session course which explores what the Bible is, what story it tells and how it relates to working in a church school. Colleagues interested in developing their subject knowledge may be interested in this. You



can find out more from the same Education Resources section of the Bible Society UK page.

Wintershall Education

As Easter approaches you might want to take a look at the events, workshops and school visits that the Wintershall Education team offers to schools. Based in Surrey, they offer a whole range of resources and events to support RE



teaching and learning and

collective worship. These include: actor-led school assemblies, retreat days, INSET, Year 6 leavers days, online materials for Pause and Enquiry days, and the Life of Christ outdoor play which is a fantastic open-air experience. For most information visit

www.wintershall.org.uk/wintershall-education.

Empowering Voices Project - Reconnecting Lincolnshire



Diocese of Lincolnshire

The Empowering Voices project has been running across Lincolnshire Diocese for a few years. The latest part of this project is a series of thirty-minute podcasts aimed at KS3 pupils and teachers. Each podcast will focus on a particular worldview and comprises an audio play written collaboratively by young people and a professional writer, an 'in-conversation' piece that picks up on the themes of the play, and an immersive soundscape. The team have also produced accompanying education packs for each podcast. The first two podcasts have just been launched. The first focuses on the experience of white reverts to Islam in Scunthorpe and the second explores a black Evangelical Christian worldview in Bristol. Future podcasts include engagement with Hindu and Sikhi worldviews in the Midlands, Jewish worldviews in Hertfordshire, the experience of a Pakistani Humanist in the southwest and a female experience of Anglican Christianity. You can find out more at <https://www.reconnectlincs.co.uk/empowering-voices> . These podcasts are publicly available, but if you are interested in piloting these and the associated education packs as part of your RE curriculum and want to find out more please contact Gillian Georgiou at gillian.georgiou@lincoln.anglican.org.

Cumbria SACRE – Visits and Visitors Booklet – Online ‘Virtual Visits’

Cumbria SACRE have produced a comprehensive guidance booklet on 'Visits and Visitors for Religious Education'. Although the places of worship are based in Cumbria the guidance booklet also contains a very detailed list of places of worship which have produced virtual tours and materials as well as other online resources.

Jewish Museum of London

The Jewish Museum of London based in Camden has a fabulous collection of Jewish artefacts which bring Judaism and Jewish culture and heritage to life for pupils. The museum staff also run excellent training sessions for teachers and have produced some very good online resources and materials. I would certainly recommend looking at the online resources and if you can, visiting the museum.



OutoftheBox Training

OutoftheBox uses story and play for personal and community wellbeing. Storytellers create brave relational space to breathe, trust, listen, feel, wonder, play and love. OutoftheBox stories are in use in a range of settings, including schools. Membership provides access to 49 core Wisdom stories and ongoing support through an online community, as well as access to self-led and trainer-led learning and the opportunity to purchase storytelling resources. Additional genres of stories are being developed: History, Arts, Nature, STEM, Religions and Faith. Visit <https://www.outoftheboxtraining.org/>.



RE Today – New materials for Religions and Worldviews

RE Today are busy updating their primary curriculum resource booklet series. The latest booklet to be sent as part of the NATRE Spring mailing is the Jewish Worldviews booklet. The new primary curriculum series 'Exploring Religion and Worldviews' comprises of 9 volumes - 7 booklets explore specific religious and non-religious worldviews and 2 more have a more general focus on big ideas and celebrations. The books provide clear subject knowledge for teachers and are designed to show diversity within each worldview. The booklets also build on the previous series which supported teachers in using different methods with pupils and reflecting three types of knowledge: substantive, disciplinary and personal. If you take out NATRE membership you will receive some of the booklets as part of your subscription as well as discounts on other RE Today publications. Visit natre.org.uk to find out more about membership.



Supporting Disciplinary Knowledge/Ways of Knowing - RE-searchers Approach

The 'RE-searchers' approach was developed by Rob and Giles Freathy. It introduces pupils to a variety of the approaches associated with the study of religion(s) and worldview(s) used throughout schools, university, and beyond. The

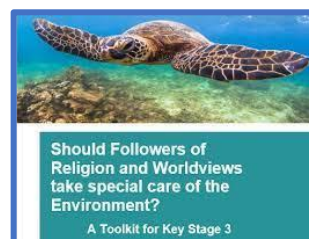


RE-searchers approach offers multiple cartoon characters, each of whom use a different methodology and method (for example, the participator/experiencer: 'Have-a-go Hugo', and the interviewer/communicator: 'Ask-it-all Ava'). Pupils engage with the characters and can adopt each character's approach to research, thereby learning about not only 'religion(s)' but also 'how to learn about religion(s)'.

This is an interactive and inquiry-led approach to RE that highlights the role of interpretation, methodology and method in the study of religion(s) and worldview(s). A manual and classroom resources have been developed for use in primary schools and trialled in various schools in the south west of England as well as further afield. Extensive theoretical research underpinned the development of the approach: this has been published alongside more practical classroom guides: You can find out more via the **REonline website**. The project is ongoing and thus remains under development. By no means do the RE-searchers characters cover every interpretation/methodology/method found in the study of religion(s) and worldview(s). They are indicative only. Teachers are encouraged to engage with and experiment with the approach in order to further its development.

KS3 Ecology Toolkit - TES

This toolkit has been designed for busy RE Teachers to plan an exciting unit of work exploring Religion and the Environment. Interleaving learning between RE, Geography and Science, the resource asks learners to consider "Should followers of religions and worldviews take special care of the environment?". The toolkit costs £9.00. For more information visit <https://www.tes.com/teaching-resource/environment-and-religion-a-toolkit-for-ks3-12589996>



The toolkit contains a menu of options to help you deliver a unit of work including;

- A fully planned introductory lesson
- Starter, main and plenary activities
- Current case studies and news stories to engage your students
- Bespoke films interviewing representatives from different religions and worldviews
- Religion and worldview fact sheet resources, useful for other topics too

Diocese of Chichester Upcoming RE Training and Events

RE Primary Network (Spring)- Tuesday 14th March 4.30 – 6.00 pm ZOOM

Moving Forward with UC - Wednesday 3rd May 2023 DCH 10-4pm

RE Surgery - Monday 15th May 3.30pm – 1:1 advice and support (ZOOM)

RE Primary Network (Summer) – Thursday 15th June 1.30 – 4.30pm Diocesan Church House, Hove

Rosemary Black - RE, SIAMS, CD Manager

rosemary.black@chichester.anglican.org

TEL: 07467 958 125