

Spring Term 2021– Second Edition!

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to this further edition of the RE Newsletter for Community Schools for the current term. With schools re-opening to all pupils from 8th March, I am sure you have been extremely busy in preparing for at least some return to 'normality'! You will be dealing with a whole range of competing priorities, including your responsibilities as Subject Leaders for RE and - as always – this resource is designed to support you in that particular role. I have been inspired by the conversations I have had with many of you in recent weeks as you seek to strengthen and refresh the RE curriculum in your respective schools and I am always here to offer you help, advice and support with RE (or Collective Worship). You may be:

- preparing teaching and learning
- reviewing and revising RE documentation such as schemes of learning and policy statements
- organising existing resources and/or selecting new ones
- developing your own subject knowledge.

I would be delighted to hear from you. Do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to make an online or telephone appointment!

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- **LB Brent:** 11th May
- **LB Hammersmith & Fulham/RB Kensington & Chelsea/City of Westminster:** 10th June
- **LB Harrow:** 17th June
- **LB Hounslow:** 25th March/8th June
- **RB Kingston/LB Richmond:** 20th May

In all likelihood, these will continue to take place virtually. Please contact me for more details or register online in the usual way.

Dates of Future Primary RE Network Meetings 2021

Hinduism in RE

In January an organisation called INSIGHT UK published a report on the state of Hinduism in Religious Education (RE) in UK schools. INSIGHT UK is an organisation that aims to address the concerns of the British Hindu and British Indian communities. In 2020, INSIGHT UK conducted a project with a team comprised of highly experienced members of the Hindu community, amongst which are well-known academics, including professors and teachers. The project goal was to assess the current state of Hinduism in RE in UK schools as perceived by Hindus in Britain and recommend changes to improve it. Hindu families were asked about their perceptions of the teaching of Hinduism.

The main findings from this survey concluded:

- 97% say it is important for their child to learn about Hinduism
- 98% say the study of Hinduism in RE is low quality and deficient
- 75% feel that Hinduism is not taught in a positive light
- 86% are either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the teaching of Hinduism in UK schools
- 76% of primary school parents are unhappy about RE teachers' knowledge of Hinduism
- There is growing evidence of inaccurate resources used by classroom teachers for teaching Hinduism.

The full report can be read here:

<https://insightuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Hinduism-in-RE-Project-report.pdf>



You may wish to consider the implications of these findings for your own school and whether or not this national picture is reflected in your own context.

The good news is that the Hindu community is making a very swift and practical response to these findings. A Hindu Education Board (<https://hindueducationboarduk.org/>) has been established and among other initiatives, it will provide a link between schools and the Hindu communities in this country. This will include offering assistance in answering questions, providing resources and arranging visits and visitors and enquiries can be made via this email address: info@hindueducationboarduk.org

Free Teaching Resources from the Free Churches!

The Free Churches Group comprises twenty-six denominations in the Protestant tradition in this country. It has produced a range of RE resources relating to their beliefs and practices.

Firstly, there is a resource for Key Stages 2-4 called: Reforming Christianity. These resources have been commissioned by the [Free Churches Group](#) and [The Methodist Church](#), sponsored by the [Westhill Endowment](#) and produced in association with [RE Today Services](#). Further details of the topics covered and an option to download them can be found here: <https://www.freechurches.org.uk/reforming-christianity>

Secondly, [The Methodist Church](#) (a member of FCG) has commissioned RE teaching resources, written by RE Today, to enable teaching about Christianity from a Methodist perspective. These can be downloaded [HERE](#).

Salvation Army Teaching Resources

The Salvation Army has a wealth of highly appropriate and practical resources on its website, including materials on Signs and Symbols, Christmas, Jesus, the Bible and Faith in Action, including some suitable for the EYFS. Please see this website to download these free of charge:

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/resources/schools-resources/religious-education-primary>

Virtual Synagogue Visits

Wimbledon Reform Synagogue has a long and well established tradition of hosting school visits, particularly for those in its immediate area. Now, it is looking to extend its reach beyond Merton and Wandsworth!

During the pandemic, the education team there has developed an excellent online resource, including a virtual introduction to the synagogue and its community and the key elements in Judaism. This film is about an hour long and is suitable for primary schools; it has been designed especially to be used in chapters or parts, depending on what aspects of the Jewish traditions are being studied and includes footage of Shabbat being celebrated in two different homes. The film comes with a pack of teaching materials and is accompanied by an online Q and A session with a member of the congregation.

You can watch a promotional clip here: www.bit.ly/WimshulSVPreview



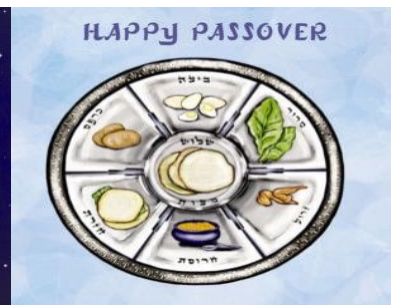
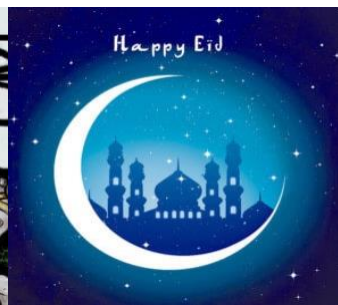
Details of how to book are at the end of the clip. This service is free of charge, but it might be appropriate if your school could make a donation to the synagogue which runs a range of charitable initiatives, including a night shelter in the winter for local homeless people.

Davora Cards

Davora Limited is a company specialising in high quality greeting cards for festivals and other occasions relevant to a wide variety of world religions. The range includes cards for Eid, Diwali, Jewish celebrations of all kinds, Saints Days and many more.

Those cards in the range featuring religious symbols and iconography can be very useful classroom resources and might also be used in displays around the school. They can of course also be sent as greetings to members of different faith communities within your school's staff team or to those who contribute to your programmes of RE and Collective Worship.

Please see the website for more details: <https://www.davora.co.uk/shop/>



Faces of Faith

Faces of Faith (2013) is a free online-film resource to support the teaching about the Christianity at Key Stages One and Two. It includes 23 clips of children aged 5-7 and 7-11 talking about their Christian **faith**, on-line and ready to be used by **schools**: www.faithinschools.co.uk/faces-of-faith

