RE IN COMMUNITIES NEWSLETTER

Summer Term 2021– Second Edition!

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to this final edition of the RE Newsletter for Community Schools for the current academic year before we all sign off some well-deserved rest and relaxation over the summer after a period like no other! It contains a major item on some significant work by Ofsted in relation to RE and several other pieces of information which I hope will be of interest. In addition, please do remember that I am 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!

Lesley Prior

Adviser for RE in Community Schools

Contact Details: Lesley Prior
Part time Adviser for Religious Education in Community Schools
London Diocesan Board for Schools
36, Causton Street
London
SW1P 4AU

Tel. No: 07808 761 148
lesley.prior@london.anglican.org

Dates of Future Primary RE Network Meetings 2021/22

- **LB Brent:** 2nd November, 3rd February, 19th May
- **LB Hammersmith & Fulham:** 30th November, 24th February, 23rd June
- **RB Kensington & Chelsea/City of Westminster:** 7th December, 3rd March, 16th June
- **LB Harrow:** 9th December, 15th March, 26th May
- **LB Hounslow:** 12th October, 10th March, 7th June
- **RB Kingston/LB Richmond:** 7th October, 22nd February, 10th May

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

Ofsted and RE

Dr Richard Kueh is Ofsted's subject lead for RE. A qualified teacher, he holds Masters degrees in Theology and Religious Studies, a Doctorate in Philosophy and a PGCE. Before joining Ofsted, Richard taught in maintained schools, independent schools and universities. He has senior experience as director of a regional school improvement partnership, director of teacher training and development for a multi-academy trust, deputy headteacher of a secondary school and associate headteacher of a primary school. Richard's areas of expertise include curriculum, assessment, teacher development, inclusion and initial teacher education. In these two short clips, Richard discusses some of the key factors that can influence the quality of RE in schools:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gJmJC_RhRNk&t=7s
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GiaKdZkTaMU

And a major new research paper on RE was published by Ofsted on 12th May!

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/research-review-series-religious-education/research-review-series-religious-education

In this review, Ofsted has:

- outlined the national context in relation to RE
- summarised its review of research into factors that can affect the quality of education in RE
- considered curriculum progression in RE, pedagogy, assessment and the impact of school leaders' decisions on provision.

The report refers to three different types of knowledge used in RE. These broad types of knowledge are 'pillars of progression' within RE. 'Getting better' at RE comprises knowing more of these pillars as they are set out within the RE curriculum:

- First, 'substantive' knowledge: knowledge about various religious and non-religious traditions or worldviews.
- Second, 'ways of knowing': pupils learn 'how to know' about religion and worldviews.
- Third, 'personal knowledge': pupils build an awareness of their own presuppositions and values about the religions and worldviews they study.

According to the report, high-quality RE may have the following features:

- A consideration of the knowledge that pupils build through the RE curriculum, because accurate knowledge about religions and worldviews can be beneficial for achieving different purposes and aims for RE.
- High expectations about scholarship in the curriculum to guard against pupils' misconceptions - what is taught and learned in RE is grounded in what is known about religions and worldviews from academic study (scholarship).
- Carefully selected and well-sequenced substantive content and concepts.
- 'Ways of knowing' are appropriately taught alongside the substantive content and are not isolated from the content and concepts that pupils learn.
- A consideration of when pupils should relate the content to their own personal knowledge (for example, prior assumptions).

See this very useful summary from the TES: https://www.tes.com/news/ofsted-six-ways-improve-re-teaching - it would be ideal to share with colleagues!

Interfaith Week 2021

Inter Faith Week 2021 takes place from 14th-21st November and inter faith cooperation and understanding are ever more important. Do encourage your school to join in and be part of this very special week! It is an

ideal time to highlight the importance of RE in your school and make it the centre of a range of celebratory events and activities.

Inter Faith Week's aims are to:

- Strengthen good inter faith relations at all levels
- Increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, in particular celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society
- Increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs.

Resources and ideas for schools can be found on the IFN website at:

https://www.interfaithweek.org/resources/schools-2

Inter Faith Week

Free Resources and Support from the British Library

To support schools in the current period and beyond, **The British Library** is offering a range of learning materials that aim to replicate activities from its face-to-face workshops. These can be used at any time to fit in with your teaching schedule. This session explores the richness and diversity of sacred texts from a range of different religions and looks at the deep connections and common threads that link them. Activities are presented in short-form video format and look at special texts from the Library's collections and engage with digitised items spanning written texts as well as visual and audio content. The videos are supported by full teachers' notes and learner-friendly activity sheets.

How does it work?

- When you contact them, you will be connected with one of the British Library Learning Facilitators who created these materials
- They will share the materials with you, explain how they can be used in your classroom or for remote learning, and answer any questions you might have. They will arrange to do this with you over email or in a video call
- You use the materials with your class to run the activities in lesson time
- After you've run the session/s, your Learning Facilitator can offer a 30-minute video call for your class to share what they have been working on and ask questions on the topic or about the British Library
- Staff will be in touch to request feedback from you and your class on how everything went, as part of the Library's commitment to continual improvement of its programme.

These materials are currently in draft format. To enquire about piloting this content, or receiving full materials when they are finalised, email the Learning team learning@bl.uk

Generously supported by the Bluston Charitable Trust, in memory of Lily and David Bluston.

With thanks to The Al-Khoei Foundation.

What are Worldviews in RE?

'Nobody stands Nowhere' is the title of a new animation (just over two minutes long) from the Theos Think Tank which aims to unpack the concept of worldview. The film reminds us that there is no such thing as a neutral perspective and that everyone sees the world through a lens or mix of lenses.

You can watch the film at https://www.theosthinktank.co.uk/comment/2021/05/12/worldviews-film

The film could be helpful in a range of settings - with pupils, teachers, educators, worldview community groups - let me know how you use it!

Improving Your Subject Knowledge in RE

Teach:RE offers four FREE self-study courses:

Teach:RE Primary – An Introduction This short self-study course is for those currently undertaking primary initial teaching training or for those in their NQT year or working as an HLTA in a primary school or academy. The course helps those entering the teaching profession to understand the purpose of RE and how to teach it effectively.

Teach:RE Religion and Worldviews – Subject Knowledge for Teaching This self-study course is designed for anyone who wishes to develop their subject knowledge of one or two religious or non-religious worldviews.

Teach:RE Religion and Worldviews in Dialogue and Discourse This self-study course is suitable for all teachers of all age groups in all types of schools.

Teach:RE Religion, Worldviews and Community Relations This self-study course is suitable for all teachers of all age groups in all types of schools.

See this link for more details and to register: https://www.teachre.co.uk/free-self-study-courses/