

DEVELOPING OUR RE THINKING TOGETHER

COLLECTING THE RIGHT SORT OF EVIDENCE

RE: THINK Our next series of RE subject leaders will focus on how we make sure that we are recording evidence most effectively (in the 'smartest' way possible). I have visited many of our schools and been a part of a book scrutiny very regularly. One of the most common findings is that what is found in the RE books is not necessarily representative of the quality of the RE that is actually taking place in the classroom. I am often told that the work in the books does not reflect the level of thinking from the pupils especially in terms of the discussions that are taking place and the ideas which the pupils are capable of.

Therefore, our June meetings will focus on strategies for capturing thinking and it will rely on you bringing along your examples as well as a collection of ideas from me. Please bring along 2 or 3 examples of good practice which have captured ideas and shown high level thinking. They can be from any year group as long as they fit these criteria. This is about quality rather than quantity. They can be examples from early years, key stage 1 or key stage 2. This is not a levelling exercise, rather the aim is to help teachers to find better ways of recording pupils' work, ways which mean that the pupils enjoy their RE and engage with everything in the lesson even the writing!

The meetings are on:

Wednesday 8th June 1.30 pm—4 pm

RE Support Group—Bennett Memorial Tunbridge Wells TN4 9SH *(please park on the road as parking is limited in the school grounds)*

Thursday 9th June 1.30 pm—4 pm

RE Support Group—Rochester Diocesan Offices ME1 1SL.

Friday 10th June 1.30 pm to 4 pm

RE Support Group -Crayford Community Hall (Bexley Schools)

For Bromley schools, Lee Kings organises the RE-Connect programme.

THINKING ABOUT THE QUESTIONS RATHER THAN THE ANSWERS



In the transition from the current syllabus to a new one in September 2017, we are trying a number of different strategies to improve teaching and learning in RE. When I think about what a pupil leaving primary school

should know about RE, I think that you should be proud if a child knows that there are more questions than answers when we talk about religion, that one question leads to another and that if we do find answers there are several possible answers to the same question. Also – they should be comfortable that all this is the case.

Therefore, as well as trialling the new units, I would encourage you to think about using questions rather than statements for each of your RE lessons. In this way, the aim becomes the exploration of a question (hopefully with a range of answers) in each RE lesson. This will take some 'tweaking' for each lesson but will help to turn the lesson into an enquiry which is potentially more satisfying for everyone!

Some examples to illustrate this:

Year 1 unit 5 lesson 1

AT1: To know that Christians believe that God is like a father – **Why do Christians believe that God is like a father?**

AT2: To think about who I like to talk to – **Who do you like to talk to?**

Year 4 unit 5 lesson 1

AT1: To identify how church buildings are used for worship – **How is a church used for worship?**

AT2: To reflect on how the church building makes me feel in relation to worship – **How does the church building make me feel about worship?**

Year 6 unit 5 lesson 1

AT1: To understand that there is a worldwide Church and the role of Christian Aid – **What do I know about the worldwide Church and about what Christian Aid is doing in our world?**

AT2: To reflect on our attitude to helping people in other countries – **Can I play a part in helping people in our global community?**

OPPORTUNITIES

Springs Dance Company: Get Fit Go Green (in partnership with TearFund)

The project can run for a day or be delivered over six workshop sessions which culminate in a performance by the children.

Get Fit Go Green can cover:

- Learning and creating fun, high energy movement to get fit.
- Exploring green issues such as consumerism, energy and transport and how our actions can affect people globally, as part of Jesus' call to love our neighbour.
- Go green– what we can all do to make a difference.
- Respecting God's world– how the Bible encourages care for creation. The project can be adapted to suit the school.

Springs is flexible as to how workshops fit into the school timetable.

To book or for a friendly chat about what we can do for you call us on 07876 752 910 or email

touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk



RE Society Conference 2016

Are you bothered about RE?
Looking for some answers?

Think about:

- What is a TeachMeet?
- What is the purpose of RE?
- How do I introduce active learning?
- Will I be able to talk to others about the new GCSE?
- Will I be able to find out about enquiry methods in RE?

Saturday 18th June 2016

Ticket price: £90

(Beds RE Society, NQT & ITT discounts)

Center Parcs Woburn Forest, Fordfield Rd, Millbrook
Bedfordshire, MK45 2HZ

Booking information: T: 01727 818168

E: rgarman@stalbans.anglican.org

W: www.stalbans.anglican.org/schools/re-conference-18-june-2016/

The workshop speakers:

Lat Blaylock, Fiona Moss, Kathryn Wright, Andy Lewis, Dilwyn Hunt, Ed Pawson, Juliet Lyal and Sarah Payne
Conference includes lunch & refreshments, RE publisher fair including RE Today;

**free swim & access to restaurants,
spa & sport until 10.30pm**

THINK ABOUT GOD'S WONDERFUL WORLD THROUGH THE 'KENT IS DELICIOUS' 2016 SCHOOL COOKERY COMPETITION (one of our schools won in 2015!)

Are you looking for a way to engage your pupils with their food, and learn more about local and seasonal produce? If so, there is still plenty of time for schools to enter the diocese's popular *Kent is Delicious* cookery competition.

Open to all primary schools in Kent, the competition aims to raise children's awareness of the quality and importance of local, seasonal produce by asking them to create a recipe using as many locally sourced, grown and produced ingredients as possible.

This year, schools are being asked to think outside the 'snack box' and create a trio of tasty and local after-school snacks: at least one hot dish should be included.

The 2015 winners were St. George's CEP school in Wrotham. Their teacher Ms Annette Holmes said:



"Our children really enjoyed taking part in the Kent is Delicious completion They gained confidence in preparing and making their own food and they loved the fact that other people tasted their dish and made positive comments.

"I would encourage any school thinking of taking part to do so. The children get so engaged that they don't realise how much they are learning."

Four schools will be chosen to go through to the final which will be held at the Kent County Show on Friday 8th July, where they will make their dishes for a panel of experienced local food and farming judges. All the finalist schools receive Kent Farmers' Market Association vouchers to help them to create a hamper of local treats and the winners receive free transport for Years 3 and 4 to the popular Living Land event at Detling held each year. The deadline for entries is Friday 27th May, 2016.

For more information schools can email kentisdelicious@diocant.org or visit <https://www.canterburydiocese.org/kentisdelicious/>.

CHRISTIAN RESOURCES

Focus on the Lord's Prayer



It is helpful to focus on the Lord's Prayer on a regular basis so that pupils are familiar with the prayer and that they understand and engage with it. This might be through a music resource for schools and churches such as that professionally

recorded in Ipswich Primary Schools and the Ngara Anglican Primary School, Tanzania. The CD contains:

- 13 songs, including 10 sung versions of the Lord's Prayer
 - 30 fully-documented and resourced assemblies / acts of collective worship
 - all you need to run a primary-age RE theme day on all aspects of the Lord's Prayer
 - sign language guidance, resources and ideas to help create interactive stations and a fully-documented
 - reflective story
- spoken recordings of the Lord's Prayer in 18 different languages.

All this for £15 + £1.50 p&p.

http://www.cofesuffolk.org/assets/downloads/children_youngpeople/Lords%20Prayer%20Project.pdf



Ideas for Ascension and Pentecost



These two important festivals are celebrated in term 5. For some year groups, there is a focus provided for this in the RE syllabus. But it is also an opportunity to celebrate these festivals together and to pause to explore them in different ways. Here are some ideas for you:

http://www.cofesuffolk.org/assets/downloads/children_youngpeople/Ascension%20and%20Pentecost%20EXTRA%202012.pdf



Alternatively, there are ideas in the 'Experience Pentecost' pack from Jumping Fish (Gloucester Diocese).

<http://www.gloucester.anglican.org/schools/jumping-fish-publications/experience-journeys78004/>

Or what about a Pentecost Pause day – the work for this has been done by Guildford Diocese!

<http://www.cofeguildford.org.uk/education/our-school-services/re/pause-days/pentecost-pause-day>

Pentecost for Key Stage 1



One of the greatest theologians of the Early Church, Augustine of Hippo, once said that trying to explain the Doctrine of the Trinity is like trying to empty the ocean with a cup, so don't worry if some questions come up

when exploring the Holy Spirit which you can't give a perfect answer to – Augustine would have had the same problem! Exploring ideas about the Holy Spirit can be quite a challenge – here is a unit of work to use with Year 2 which might give you some fresh inspiration:

<http://www.stir-up.org.uk/documents/KS1WhydoChristianssaytheHolySpiritisimportant.pdf>

Pentecost in worship

Make sure that the worship leading up to Pentecost brings the festival to life for all of the school. Add to knowledge and understanding about Pentecost through worship as well as through RE.

As well as the ideas provided on the Diocesan website, there are others available, including those suggested by Barnabas in Schools:

<http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/find/pentecost/ideas/>



If pupils are leading worship during Pentecost, their planning might be helped using Flippin' Praise. This is available from

http://www.cofesuffolk.org/assets/downloads/children_youngpeople/Resources/order%20form%20flippin%20praise%20apr15.pdf

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found on : www.rochester-board-of-education.co.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES 2015



2016

MAY

Friday 20th May SIAMS briefing/updates **1.30 pm— 4 pm**
Diocesan offices, St. Nicholas Church Boley Hill Rochester
ME1 2RE (**Free to SLA schools**)

Friday 27th May Applying for the RE Quality Mark (REQM) **1.30 pm—4 pm**
Diocesan Offices, St. Nicholas Church, Boley Hill Rochester ME1 2RE
This course is FREE— please see flier attached.

JUNE

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1.30 pm—4 pm Capturing thinking.

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Capturing thinking.

Wednesday 22nd June Education Celebration Service and Garden Party - **service 5.30 pm—6.30 pm**
Rochester Cathedral followed by a garden party at Bishop's Court St. Margaret's
Street, **6.30 pm—8.30 pm** (Invitation letter to follow)

****HEADS AND CHAIRS BRIEFINGS****

After consultation with schools there will now be 1 breakfast meeting and 1 afternoon meeting

Thursday 28th April Breakfast meeting **8 am (coffee) —10.30 am** The Holiday Inn Wrotham TN15 7RS

Friday 29th April Diocesan Offices St. Nicholas Church, Boley Hill, Rochester ME1 1SL **1.30 pm– 4pm**