

ROCHESTER DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Nativity re-interpreted!

The Diocesan Education team and the Cathedral education team are always trying to think of new ways to make sure that our partnership, which supports all of our Church of England schools, might be enriched. This is particularly important just now as our Schools' Festival in 2014 and 2015 has not been able to take place due to the works at the Cathedral. You can see the results of our fresh thinking hanging in Rochester Cathedral until 2 February 2015.



We provided one large plastic hoop and asked 12 schools (including primary, secondary and infant) to create Nativity mobiles. We provided some 'starter' ideas but we were keen that the children and students represented the Nativity in their particular and special way. We think that you will agree that this is what they have done in some spectacular ways. You can visit the Cathedral to admire their efforts and learn what lies behind their designs which have been captured in a written explanation which is available to visitors. They will also make a valuable contribution to the Christmas celebrations at our Cathedral



Thank you to all the schools who have contributed and also to the Cathedral vergers who provided the practical expertise and enthusiasm to make sure that the mobiles were set safely in their places. We asked our schools to make sure that the Christmas message came across loud and clear through their images – we hope that you agree that they do!



Thank you for all your Christmas cards and messages which are much appreciated by all of the Diocesan team.

SPRINGS DANCE COMPANY EASTER PROJECT

The Springs Easter Project leads pupils through a series of dance workshops that help them to engage with the Easter story.

Children will learn and create movement in response to the story. They can explore their own spirituality as the workshops link Jesus' relationship with his disciples to Jesus' presence today. The workshops culminate in a performance of the Easter story by the pupils, which can be shown to school and parents alike.

The project is most often delivered over six workshop sessions followed by a performance day. The story is shared between the classes involved, divided into the following sections:

- Washing of the feet
- Last supper
- Garden of Gethsemane
- Trial
- Crucifixion
- Rolling away of the stone
- Mary weeping
- Resurrection

The project can be adapted to suit the school.

www.springsdancecompany.org.uk

India - Encountering Religions

Pamela Draycott, who has recently joined our team of SIAMS inspectors, is widely experienced in the field of Religious Education; she worked for many years for RE Today, was Curriculum Adviser for RE and Citizenship for Kent CC and an Associate Headteacher at a rapidly improving inner London school. She is also an experienced tour and pilgrimage leader.

This visit is a must for those with an interest in the great religions of India. It will provide a wide range of opportunity to experience firsthand the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of India, and to reflect on the diversity of religions practised here. It will also offer ample opportunity to deepen knowledge and understanding and of course to take photographs and buy artefacts (a particular help for teachers!). Please see attached flier for the details and costs of this tour.



TRUE TUBE www.truetube.co.uk

'TrueTube' is a multi award-winning free education website which provides lesson plans, assembly scripts, teacher's notes and interactive resources, along with hundreds of short films, to support teachers of RE, PSHE and Citizenship at Key Stages 3 and 4. The resources were accessed by 3 million students globally in 2014 and they hope to reach 3.5 million in 2015. Research has revealed a variety of ways in which the resources are used in schools: from lesson starters to plenary activities to comparing differing points of view with several films - teachers say that they are not short of options when it comes to finding creative ways to make the most of the material. True Tube are continuing to identify areas of the curriculum which most need support, and striving to make new films and to produce new resources that will continue to assist the learning of young people in classrooms across the UK, and the world.'

Take a look for some possibilities for upper Key Stage 2 as well.....

Unable to visit to cathedral for the Diocesan schools festival – why not still bring your year 6 pupils for this special offer?

spiRE Days

A whole day of RE, art, history, literacy and design activities at Rochester Cathedral

Key Stage 2 Programme

Arrival at 10.15 – Departure at 14.30



An action packed day to encourage pupils to look, investigate, explore and interpret the magnificent environment of a site of local heritage concluding with an optional act of worship.

Time will be given in the programme for short breaks, a visit to the cathedral shop, and breath of fresh air in Rochester Castle grounds. Lunch-rooms (normally priced at £15.00 per half-hour) are provided free of charge for AspiRE Days.

AspiRE Days are available in January and February and May for a cost of £4.00 per pupil

**For further details or to book please contact
Cathedral Education Department on 01634 810066 or email educationofficer@rochester-cathedral.org**

Diocesan news and views

RE subject knowledge sessions

This will be run by secondary RE specialists from Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School who have designed and run this training for Bexley primary schools very successfully already.

You would book for all 5 sessions at the total and very reasonable cost of £150. You could then send the most appropriate teacher on the day that a particular religion is being covered (see below). This will therefore help to increase the knowledge and skills of teachers across the school.

Each session will run from 1-30pm to 4pm at the following times and venues:

Wed 11th Feb (Judaism) – Rochester Diocesan office MEI ISL – usually taught in Years 1 and 3



Wed 25th Feb (Islam) –venue tbc – usually taught in Year 5



Wed 4th March (Hinduism) - Rochester Diocesan office MEI ISL – usually taught in Years 2 &/ or Year 4



Wed 11th March (Buddhism) – Rochester Diocesan office MEI ISL . This is an opportunity to introduce some RE enrichment as this is a religion that is not usually taught but we will think about how we might cover this within the curriculum – the RE subject leader would be the ideal person to attend



Wed 18th March (Sikhism) – Rochester Diocesan office MEI ISL - usually taught in Year 6



Please book with Teresa – teresa.spearink@rochester.anglican.org – we need to let the trainers know if this will be viable.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development :

What should this look like in a Church school?

We will look at the distinctive flavour of SMSC in a Church school including the new expectations both in

the SIAMS evaluation schedule and in the OfSTED framework.

Tuesday 3 March 2015

EITHER 9-30am to 12 noon **OR** 1-30pm to 4pm at The Diocesan Offices, St Nicholas Church, Boley Hill, Rochester ME1 ISL

Please book with :

teresa.spearink@rochester.anglican.org

Making the most of the RDBE website – for SIAMS

The Rochester Diocesan Board of Education website (www.rdbe.org) contains all that you need to know and all that you will need to use in order to prepare for your SIAMS inspection.

If you spend a little bit of time familiarising yourself with the 'schools' section of the website, you will be able to see those sections relating to inspection

- ◆ The evaluation schedule
- ◆ The self-evaluation documents
- ◆ How to find out what your school community thinks (questionnaires, questions etc)

If you need any further clarification, please contact virginia.corbyn@rochester.anglican.org

Teaching Christianity in our schools

In the light of the recent review into the teaching of RE in our Church schools, we are looking forward and planning for ways in which we can best support you to develop your practice in the teaching of Christianity. As soon as the pilot materials for The Christianity Project are available, we will let you know and we will suggest ways in which you might use them to supplement your current syllabus materials. When the project is fully available in 2015/2016, we will be making sure that all of our schools are able to make the best possible use of new materials which, we are promised, will have the potential to develop our thinking and that of all of our pupils.



In the meantime, can we remind you that the syllabus and the expectations for RE, including levels and assessment, have not changed. You will be the first to know if they do!

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Further information can be found on : www.rochester-board-of-education.co.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES 2015

**2015
JANUARY**

***Thursday 15th January

CANCELLED *** SIAMS training for Senior Leaders
9.30 am—12 noon AND 1.30 pm—4 pm

SIAMS Training Sessions

Please note that bookings have been so low for these sessions that we have taken the decision to cancel the remaining sessions for 2014/15. Instead we are offering regular SIAMS updates in place of the planned training. These sessions will be held once a term and are open to a senior leader, a governor and the SIAMS/RE leader in the school. The first of these will be on **Tuesday 5 May either from 1-30pm to 3-30pm OR from 4-30pm to 6-30pm** so that you can choose which is the more convenient slot. These will take place at the Diocesan office, St Nicholas Church, Rochester ME1 1SL. Please email Teresa.spearink@rochester.anglican.org to book places.



Monday 26th January

Foundation Governor Induction Training 4.30 pm—6.30 pm to include: the roles and responsibilities of the Foundation Governor of a CoE School. Key aspects of Church School governance including Christian Distinctiveness, SIAMS Inspection and Buildings/ Finance, opportunity to ask questions about your role and share your experiences with other Governors

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 11th February

CPD for Primary Teachers—World Faiths (other than Christianity) - Judaism
Rochester Diocesan Office, St. Nicholas Church ME1 1SL

Wednesday 25th February

CPD for Primary Teachers—World Faiths (other than Christianity) - Islam
Venue tbc

Wednesday 25th February

RE Support Meeting Wednesday 25 February 2015 - Bennett Memorial, Tunbridge Wells

Thursday 26 February 2015

Rochester Diocesan offices This meeting will focus on teaching Christianity with reference to 'The Christianity Project' materials which are due out early in 2015.
Bexley RE Support meeting (more details to follow through the ASP)

Friday 27th February

MARCH

Tuesday 3rd March

What is Distinctive about Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSC) in our Church Schools? 9.30 am to 12 noon and then again from **1.30 pm—4 pm**
Please book the most convenient time for you.

Wednesday 4th March

CPD for Primary Teachers—World Faiths (other than Christianity) - Hinduism
Rochester Diocesan Offices, St. Nicholas Church ME1 1SL

Wednesday 11th March

CPD for Primary Teachers—World Faiths (other than Christianity) - Buddhism
Rochester Diocesan Offices, St. Nicholas Church ME1 1SL

Wednesday 18th March

CPD for Primary Teachers—World Faiths (other than Christianity) - Sikhism
Rochester Diocesan Offices, St. Nicholas Church ME1 1SL

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

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

Thursday 29th January

Breakfast meeting 8 am—10.30 am The Holiday Inn TN15 7RS

Friday 30th January

Diocesan Offices St. Nicholas Church, Boley Hill, Rochester ME1 1SL 1.30 pm—4pm

