



ROCHESTER DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

ISSUE NO: 25

SEPTEMBER 2015

A NEW SCHOOL YEAR – THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

The RE Syllabus

Over the summer holidays, a set of resources was sent into school which should be used as part of the RE syllabus. I am encouraging you to 'pilot' these materials as a way of thinking about RE concepts (big ideas). There is also a list of big questions matched to each of the units of work. These are questions which encourage enquiry into a big question as the basis for each of the units. There is also a suggestion for a concept which can be explored as part of the unit. It is hoped that this will help teachers to think about ideas rather than getting caught up in the finer detail of each lesson. Please continue to encourage teachers to think about the task that they set – if a particular activity does not capture the imagination and the learning of the children, then please adapt or re-think the task.

Rochester Cathedral Church Schools' Festival — Good News

We are able to re-introduce the festival in 2016. The dates will be 14, 15, 15 and 17 June 2016. We look forward to welcoming your Year 6 pupils. We have been thinking about how to adapt and improve the experiences being offered. Further details and booking forms will be sent to you early in 2016 so look out for those.

Collective Worship

We have now completed the Rochester and Canterbury worship materials for a 3 year rolling cycle. If you have used the framework for 3 years, you should be re-visiting Year 1 at this point. Please keep encouraging pupils to lead worship – there are suggestions in some of the plans as to how you might do this. They can all be found at : <http://www.rdbe.org.uk/schools/collective-worship/diocesan-worship-materials>



Developing International Partnerships

Monday 12 October, Time: 9.30 to 12 noon

Venue site: Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, ME2 3SP

Booking via: office@abbeycourt.medway.sch.uk, Please park in the surrounding streets.

There are many opportunities in every school's curriculum for international partnerships to be developed. This might be to support the learning of a language in one class or to share artwork from several classes based on the views from classroom windows. Both pupils and teachers benefit from these global opportunities in that they are able to share their ideas and learn from each other. Starting small and growing international partnerships over time helps with managing the learning projects as they take place. The British Council's website is a really helpful tool for doing this. Once registered with the British Council (which is very straightforward), you can start the partnership process, which might involve linking with one school or several depending on your school's needs. The British Council website also provides practical advice and suggestions linked to the curriculum for learning projects to carry out in school.

Our school has taken part in a range of successful curriculum projects with a partner school in India (just outside Delhi), this has included the making and sharing of storybooks; the sharing of traditional festivals and learning how to make a model folk drum from the specialist Indian art teacher. The pupils involved developed both practical skills, learned much about each other's culture and were excited to see the other pupils in photos and their work. As a school, you can receive accreditation for your international work through the British Council's International School Award. You can find out more about the award by accessing the British Council's website <https://schoolsonline.britishcouncil.org> and selecting the International School Award link from the top button bar.

COURSES—Autumn Term 2015

New to Leading Religious Education?

Tuesday 17th November 2015 1.30pm-4.30pm
Venue : Diocesan Offices Rochester MEI ISL

For those who are new (or fairly new) subject leaders for RE

Course aims:

- Help to embed the knowledge and understanding necessary for the role of the RE subject leader in primary schools in those new to leading the subject in a Church school
- Explore how learning in RE can be planned and assessed to increase effectiveness and raise standards
- Begin to develop a range of strategies which can be used to improve the quality of learning in RE

To Book please contact Teresa Spearink :
 E: teresa.spearink@rochester.anglican.org
 T: 01634 560025



New to Church Schools

Wednesday 25th November 2015
1-30pm—4 pm
Venue Diocesan Offices Rochester MEI ISL

This course is suitable to NQTs, and class teachers new to Church Schools,

Course aims:

- Provide information and support for RE and for Collective Worship in our Church Schools
- Explore how Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development can be promoted
- Give confidence and understanding about how a Church school is a distinctive and dynamic context in which to work if you are a newly qualified teacher or someone working in Church Schools for the first time.

To Book please contact Teresa Spearink :
 E: teresa.spearink@rochester.anglican.org
 T: 01634 560025

SIAMS briefing/update

Monday 16th November 2015 1-30pm-3.30pm
Focus on: Valuing All God's Children
Venue : Diocesan Offices Rochester MEI ISL

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.

Venue : Diocesan office, St Nicholas Church, Boley Hill Rochester MEI ISL.

Please email Teresa.spearink@rochester.anglican.org to book places.

CPD for Primary Teachers- world faiths (other than Christianity)

The training will be run by secondary RE specialists from Chislehurst and Sidcup Grammar School who have designed and run this training for our primary schools very successfully already, in 2015

This training is designed to provide secure and detailed subject knowledge and give teachers the opportunity to think about how they help pupils to learn about and from religion in relation to these faiths. Each session will run from 1.30 pm – 4 pm

Cost £150 for all 5 sessions OR £40 per session.

Venue: Diocesan Offices, Rochester MEI ISL

Wednesday 27th January 2016: Hinduism

Wednesday 10th February: Islam

Wednesday 9th March: Judaism

Wednesday 16th March: Sikhism

Wednesday 23rd March: Asking & Answering the Big Questions

We will need a minimum of 10 bookings to run the course. More details will follow.



What is going on in the wider world of RE? A New Settlement: Religion and Belief in Schools

It is important to be aware of what is happening outside the world of church schools and our own very local concerns. RE and collective worship continue to be put under a lot of pressure. A recent report from Charles Clarke and Linda Woodhead has put forward a large number of recommendations for RE and worship. As church schools, we have traditionally had some protections with regard to worship and RE but we know how quickly things can change in education so watch this space. In the meantime, keep flying the flag for RE and worship, giving them a high profile and making sure that they are the best that they can be.

For the full report see:

<http://faithdebates.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/A-New-Settlement-for-Religion-and-Belief-in-schools.p>

RESOURCES

Understanding your local church (Scripture Union)



As part of the RE Curriculum school children are encouraged to meet with representatives of their local faith communities and to visit their premises. It's Your Church is a fresh, relevant and engaging resource to help to make the most of a church visit for both schools and churches. It's Your Church is a 16 page A4 booklet aimed at 8 – 11 year olds who are visiting a church as part of their RE syllabus. It offers an opportunity for churches and local schools to connect as children visit the building and community. The booklet contains generic information about churches that can easily be applied in many different denominational settings. It asks questions that children can complete during their visit, designed to give them specific detail about the individual church they are visiting. The premise is that they will then take the information they have learned and present (in groups, back at school) a short "Regional News TV feature" based on their visit. The booklets are available individually or in packs of 30 (a class set). Comprehensive notes explaining how best to use the resource are available on the Scripture Union website for session leaders and teachers and will be included in the 'class packs' of 30

Scripture Union has also launched a completely FREE digital Bible game for 8-11 year olds



Available for tablet devices, *Guardians of Ancora* is set in a virtual world where Bible stories are brought alive for children in new and exciting ways and which, we hope, will help children to get in to the Bible in a way that's familiar and comfortable for them. This has been produced for mission – but there may be



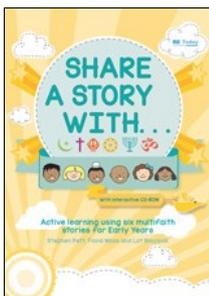
ways in which it could be used to support learning about the Bible as part of thinking about 'What Christians believe'

Hinduism

The Heart of Hinduism is an educational website with clear explanations of many aspects of the faith. With sections on concepts, worship, festivals, lifestyle and much more, this is a helpful resource. <http://hinduism.iskcon.org/>



Sharing Stories



Share a story with is a CD-Rom resource that teachers of 4 –7s can use to share six stories from different faith traditions through the eyes of children from those religious backgrounds. The accompanying 32-page book gives strategies and resources for using story in RE to promote thoughtful engagement and learning. Available from www.retoday.org.uk Don't forget: www.request.org.uk and www.reonline.org.uk for lots of other useful resources.

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES 2015

2015

OCTOBER

Monday 5th October

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



Monday 12th October

Developing International Partnerships - **9.30 am –12noon**. This course is being run by Abbey Court community Special School and will be held at Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood ME2 3SP.

NOVEMBER

Wednesday 4th November

RE Support Group—Bennett Memorial Tunbridge Wells TN4 9SH **1.30 pm—4 pm** (*please park on the road as parking is limited in the school grounds*)

Thursday 5th November

RE Support Group—Rochester Diocesan Offices ME1 1SL. **1.30 pm—4 pm**

Friday 6th November

RE Support Group -Crayford Community Hall (Bexley Schools) **1.30 pm to 4 pm**

Monday 16th November

SIAMS briefing/update **1.30 pm—3.30 pm** Diocesan Offices Rochester ME1 1SL

Tuesday 17th November

New to Leading Religious Education? **1.30 pm—4.30 pm** Diocesan Offices Rochester ME1 1SL

Wednesday 25th November

New to a Church School? **1.30pm—4 pm** Diocesan Offices Rochester ME1 1SL

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

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

Thursday 1st October

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

Friday 2nd October

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