



Training for 2016/17

Understanding Christianity



The RE materials which started life as 'The Christianity Project' were finally launched as 'Understanding Christianity' in May 2106. These materials provide us with an excellent opportunity to re-vitalise RE in our

schools at a time when we need to update our RE syllabus. The key purpose of this project is to help all teachers to support pupils in developing their own thinking and their understanding of Christianity, as a contribution to their understanding of the world and their own experience within it. It will support pupils from 4 to 14 in exploring the significant theological concepts within Christianity as part of developing their wider religious, theological and cultural literacy. It will support teachers in developing their own knowledge and understanding of Christianity theology to be able to teach with confidence.

The materials are for every teacher in primary and secondary classrooms, teaching RE from EYFS right through to KS3, laying down excellent foundations for further study at GCSE and beyond. It is relevant to RE in every classroom in every school, in Church of England and in Community, Academy and Free schools. These resources explore Christianity widely, including (but not limited to) Anglican Christianity.

The total training plan must be taught over approximately 15 hours by an accredited trainer. I have already been trained so that we can offer training over the next academic year (2016-17) with implementation in schools from September 2017. The plan is to offer this in 2 whole day blocks and to follow up through RE subject leader meetings to make up the 15 hour total training. The same person from each school would need to attend each training session to maximise the effectiveness of the training. That person will then disseminate the training in their school. At the end of the first training your teacher will be given a specific log-in code by the trainer. This will unlock the whole of this website and give you access to all of the materials and resources for you to work through with your colleagues.

At the recent clergy briefings, we discussed the possibility that clergy connected to our schools might attend the briefings. We are inviting them to attend the training sessions with the appropriate representative from their school. As theology provides such a strong underpinning of the materials, we feel that it is important for the clergy to understand the project and this seems to be the best way to ensure that this is the case. This would then place our clergy in a position to support staff with any theological questions they might have and also in lessons, where that is appropriate, especially in answering pupils' questions. We will be writing to clergy but please circulate dates and details to them and invite them to attend alongside your RE subject leader. There would be an additional cost of £25 for the clergy to attend which would cover basic costs for them which we suggest is paid by the governing body on behalf of the school.

Costs and more information

The cost which includes all the materials will be £200 + VAT per school. This includes the cost of the materials. For more information about the materials, please see

<http://www.understandingchristianity.org.uk/>

The training dates will be as follows:

Northfleet - St Botolph's CEP School DA11 9PL
Tuesday 6 December 2016 - 9-30am to 4pm
Wednesday 29 March 2017 - 9-30am to 4pm

plus the RE support group meetings from

1-30pm to 3-30pm on Thursdays:
3 November 2016, 23 Feb 2017, 8 June 2017
 At the Rochester Diocesan Offices.

Tunbridge Wells – Southborough CEP Sch TN4 0JY
Monday 14 November 2016 - 9-30am to 4pm
Thursday 16 March 2017 - 9-30am to 4pm

plus the RE support group meetings from

1-30pm to 3-30pm on Wednesdays:
2 November 2016, 22 Feb 2017, 7 June 2017
 At Bennett Memorial Diocesan School TN4 9SH

Please book your place with Teresa
teresa.spearink@rochester.anglican.org

RESOURCES

Look out for Charlie and Blue!

Culham St Gabriel's has teamed up with award-winning film-makers, TrueTube, to produce seven exciting new films to support Key Stage 1 RE. These excellent five minute films are already rating as the most popular on TrueTube. Together with the well-worked out lesson plans that accompany each film they make a substantial resource for introducing key ideas in six major religions.

Each film revolves around a little girl called Charlie and her loveably inquisitive soft toy, Blue. Together, Charlie and Blue investigate an RE-inspired question and they meet people from different religions and beliefs who can help them find the answers they are looking for, enabling Key Stage 1 children to learn alongside them.



Five of the films are ready to use right away, with one more to follow soon. A seventh film featuring a range of religious and non-religious views on a big question of life will be

added in September.

<http://www.reonline.org.uk/charlie-and-blue/>

The Pilgrim's Progress: A Curriculum for Schools

The Pilgrim's Progress is a story that has proved the test of time, place, culture, faith, gender, age. In the UK, it is part of our national and Christian heritage; world-wide it is an international bestseller with universal appeal.

It remains the third most published book in the world (after the Bible and Harry Potter). It features in the Guardian's top 100 books for 2015, passages are still read at significant national events and many famous authors have quoted it in, or used it as inspiration for, their own writing. Old and new editions, versions and translations of the book, together with film and audio adaptations, continue to be enjoyed by children and adults the world over.

This resource includes

- Brief biography of John Bunyan
- Timeline of Bunyan's life alongside national events
- Using The Pilgrim's Progress in schools – including assembly, worship, RE, Literacy, History, local History, Enrichment and Extension, and the Creative Curriculum
- The Story Explained: ten detailed story sections with key characters and symbolism, related Bible verses and texts, Christian concepts and Bunyan's real-life inspiration

- A suggested 10 week RE scheme of work for KS1, Lower and Upper KS2
- Creative Curriculum Map
- Glossary of Christian concepts
- Learning Outside the Classroom
- Colour-coding and cross-referencing
- Frieze for classroom display – a visual representation of the story, core Christian concepts plus timeline of Bunyan's life and national events

Contact palacebeautiful@btinternet.com

Barnabas in Schools – exploring Christianity creatively Creating Character

The new creative arts-based Barnabas RE Days on 'Creating Character' offer a range of ways to engage with this important and emerging area of school life.

Primary schools may choose one of two RE Days:

- 'Community' explores the values of compassion, Service and community. This will focus primarily on New Testament stories.
- 'Friendship' explores the values of friendship, forgiveness and peace. This will focus primarily on Old Testament stories.

Both will cover the questions:

- What are values and character?
- How do they form the people we are and the communities we belong to?
- How do values relate to school life both individually and corporately?

Each day usually begins with Collective Worship on the 'Creating Character' theme for the whole school. This is followed by creative workshops for individual classes. The workshops use interactive and reflective activities to explore a specific Bible or Bible-related story for each



value. For each, there will be an opportunity to learn about the story, what might be learned from it, and how it might relate to individual lives today. Each workshop concludes with a reflective story, to draw together

the different elements.

A range of free downloadable [cross-curricular ideas](#) is available to support the RE Days.

<http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/creating-character/>

SEIZE THE DAY, SEIZE THE WEEK, SEIZE THE RESOURCEs

Inter Faith Week 2016

Inter Faith Week 2016 will run from Sunday 13 November - Sunday 20 November in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Why an 'eight day week'? This year, the Week begins on Remembrance Sunday and many people of different faiths and beliefs will be marking that in some way. It is hoped that the additional Sunday will provide the opportunity for other weekend events to take place.

[Inter Faith Week resources for schools](#)

Inter Faith Week:

- **Highlights** the good work done by local faith, inter faith and faith-based groups and organisations
- **Draws** new people into inter faith learning and cooperation
- **Enables** greater interaction between people of different backgrounds
- **Helps** develop integrated and neighbourly communities
- **Celebrates** diversity and commonality
- **Opens** new possibilities for partnership.



Building good relationships and working partnerships between people of different faiths and beliefs is part of the year-round work of many people and organisations across the UK.

Having a special Week provides a focal point, helping to open inter faith activity up to a wider audience so that more and more people are made aware of the importance of this vital work and are able to participate in it.

NATRE's annual conference Strictly RE is back!

It returns to St Paul's, 200 Aldersgate, London, EC1A 4HD on 28th January 2017. There is something for everyone, whether ITT, head of RE, subject leader,



class teacher, Headteachers and governors. Enjoy a day full of inspiring keynotes and practical seminars filled with classroom-ready ideas. The special focus is deep-

ening knowledge of religion and belief in RE.

Choose from 18 seminars on a wide variety of topics, including:

- Practical strategies for building understanding of Shi'a Islam at GCSE
- Early Years RE: learning through stories and play
- Teaching non-religious worldviews: knowledge and strategies
- Building knowledge through coherent curriculum planning in KS3
- Technologically savvy RE

Tickets cost £175 but NATRE members can enjoy up to £80 off! Please do let local group members know of the **early bird discount for all places booked by 31 October 2016**. Conference price includes:

- Lunch and refreshments, downloadable handouts and presentations from all sessions.

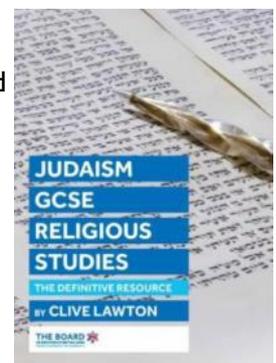
To book your place today, go to: www.natre.org.uk, email: courses@retoday.org.uk or call 0121 458 3313.

Judaism GCSE Religious Studies- The Definitive Resource'

This is a different type of textbook based on the GCSE specifications rather than any one exam board. Written by Clive Lawton 'The 140-page resource is designed to be easy to use and provides information for both students and teachers. Each topic is headed by a list of key facts, which is followed by fuller explanatory material'.

It is produced by the Board of Deputies of British Jews and it reflects mainstream Jewish belief practice and understanding. That alone makes it worth having a copy if you teach GCSE Judaism. Even if you don't but want to get your teaching of Judaism right it is worth getting. £15 plus postage and packing or you can get a PDF version with a licence for 5 people for £9.99 <https://www.bod.org.uk/judaism-gcse-religious-studies-the-definitive-resource-order-your-copy-here/>

The Board of Deputies of British Jews also offers programmes of teacher training and support. If your schools would like help or just general Judaism sessions or projects for their knowledge. Please contact Sara Perlmutter Education Development Manager
1 Torriano Mews
London NW5 2RZ
Tel: 020 7543 5400



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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES 2016

NOVEMBER

Wednesday 2nd November	RE Support Group—Bennett Memorial Diocesan School, Tunbridge Wells TN4 9SH 1.30pm—4pm (please park on the road as parking is limited in the school grounds) Understanding Christianity
Thursday 3rd November	RE Support Group—Rochester Diocesan Offices ME1 1SL. 1.30 pm—4 pm—Understanding Christianity
Friday 4th November	RE Support Group—Crayford Community Hall (Bexley Schools) 1.30 pm to 4 pm
Monday 7th November	New to a Church School 1.30 pm - 4 pm at the Rochester Diocesan Offices, Boley Hill, Rochester ME1 1SL This course is suitable for NQTs, and class teachers new to Church Schools
Thursday 10th November	Understanding Christianity 9.30 am - 4 pm at the Rochester Diocesan Offices.
Monday 14th November	Understanding Christianity 9.30 am - 4 pm at Southborough CEP School, Broomhill Park Road, Southborough TN4 0JY
Tuesday 15th November	New to Leading RE 1.30 pm - 4 pm at the Rochester Diocesan Offices, Boley Hill, Rochester ME1 1SL For those who are new (or fairly new!) subject leaders for RE
Tuesday 6th December 2016	Understanding Christianity 9-30 am - 4 pm at St. Botolph's CEP School Northfleet DA11 9PL



****** HEADS AND CHAIRS BRIEFINGS 2017 ******

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

Thursday 2nd February	Breakfast meeting 8 am (coffee) —10.30 am The Holiday Inn Wrotham TN15 7RS
Friday 3rd February	Diocesan Offices St. Nicholas Church, Boley Hill, Rochester ME1 1SL 1.30 pm– 4pm

*******LOOK OUT IN YOUR INBOX*******

Please note that materials for assessment in RE have been sent into schools and to RE subject leaders directly over the summer. Please make sure your RE subject leaders have received them as they are designed to help to bring RE assessment in line with other areas of the curriculum