



**YOUR NEW RE SYLLABUS - so far....**



Thank you for working so hard to implement the new RE syllabus in our church schools across the Diocese. We know that this is just one of many things that you and your colleagues will have been asked to implement even in the few months since the beginning of the current school year. The general feedback that I am receiving is that teachers are finding the materials much more stimulating both for themselves and, more importantly, for the pupils in the classroom. This does not mean that everything is right with the syllabus. I am sure that there are further changes to be made. You will get an opportunity

to have your say on this at the summer RE support groups.

In the meantime, here is a checklist of the things that have been produced and sent to you.

- **A**ssessment statements and assessment questions for terms 1, 2, 3 and 4 relating to the Understanding Christianity units for those terms
- **A**dditional units of works or additional guidance for terms 1, 2 and 3  
For Kent Voluntary Controlled schools only, the offer of those units needed to deliver the Kent Agreed syllabus
- **G**uidance for schools where mixed age planning and rolling programmes are needed
- **G**uidance about re-writing your RE policy in line with the new syllabus materials – please make sure that it reflects your particular school context with the correct description for the syllabus that you are following – as follows



For all VA schools, **the Rochester Diocesan RE syllabus**

For VC schools in Medway, **the Medway Agreed Syllabus supported by Rochester materials**

For VC schools in Bromley, **the Bromley Agreed Syllabus supported by Rochester materials**

For VC schools in Bexley, **the Bexley Agreed Syllabus supported by Rochester materials**

For VC schools in Kent, **the Kent Agreed Syllabus supported by Rochester materials**



The remaining materials will be sent to you in time for the term when they are needed. Over the summer, we are hoping to load all the materials on to a USB stick and send them into schools so that you have your whole syllabus in one place.



Thank you to Fi Farrin who is working on secondment to produce the RE materials in Rochester Diocese and to Rebecca Swansbury (Canterbury Diocese) for her contribution to the Kent materials.

Please contact me if you have any questions about any of the information above – [virginia.corbyn@rocheseter.anglican.org](mailto:virginia.corbyn@rocheseter.anglican.org)



## RESOURCES to SUPPORT TEACHING and LEARNING IN YOUR NEW RE SYLLABUS

Some great resources for your RE teaching across the faiths that you will be covering in the new syllabus:

### CHRISTIANITY

This is a good resource to complement any of the units on 'Incarnation'. Although this is looking forward, make sure that you store this resource for later in the year. One activity looks at Faces of Jesus [http://www.rejesus.co.uk/site/module/faces\\_of\\_jesus/index.html](http://www.rejesus.co.uk/site/module/faces_of_jesus/index.html).



You could supplement this with the 'Unexpected gallery', showing Jesus' faces in trees, clouds etc - [http://www.rejesus.co.uk/site/module/unexpected\\_faces/](http://www.rejesus.co.uk/site/module/unexpected_faces/) Even if you are not doing this unit, do find this website and explore its little films and quizzes based around Christmas and much more. Don't spend too long on the pub quiz and the karaoke carols though!



### EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE

At our last RE support group meetings, I brought along the Puddles resources (cuddly kittens, in case you have forgotten!). Just to let you know Gill Vaisey has updated the Understanding Christianity Puddles Offer as in the attached information. This will run until the end of March and then she will decide whether to continue or finish the offer.

### ISLAM

A series of stories from BBC TEACH: Religions of the World ... includes The Prophet and the Ants and also the Crying Camel

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/1pYRg2f202rqWHrp3ywhTyX/religionsof-the-world>

Stories can also be found from all the other main religions so this site is worth checking out.

### BUDDHISM

The Dharma Primary School is the first primary school and nursery in Britain to offer an education based on Buddhist values, and celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2015. You may simply find it interesting to visit their school website, follow the school blog, and watch some of their short videos. Any teachers working on Buddhism will find it a useful website: <http://www.dharmaschool.co.uk/>. As this is a new area of teaching and learning for some of you in your syllabus overview, this should prove to be useful.

### JUDAISM

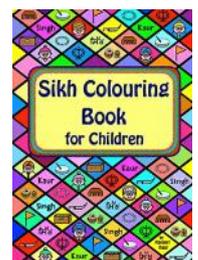
Be aware that the Jewish community celebrates New Year in September! A quick visit to the following website for a look at things a Jewish family might buy is always fun, even if you can't quite fund the soft plush Rosh Hashanah kit!

<https://ahuva.com/collections/jewish-kids>



### SIKHISM

If you are teaching Sikhism in KS2 this year, there is some great footage of the biggest Sikh temple in Europe, Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara, which is 'local' for us being located in Gravesend in Kent <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3GUvY5XBc> Here are details too of a great website which will help you collect more ideas about Sikhs in Britain today: <https://www.sikhcolouring.com/>. They have colouring books, Sikh greetings cards and beautiful posters of a child's birth Hukumnama – or the reading from the Guru Granth from the day a child is born. There are also some free resources.



## HINDUISM

If you are making Diya lamps in any part of your curriculum, you may like to show children how an authentic lamp is lit using oil? Or even to make and bake your own lamp!

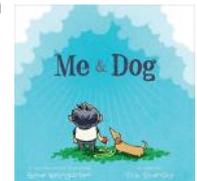
<http://www.childseyemedia.com/downloads/howtolightadiva.pdf>

<http://www.instructables.com/id/Handmade-Decorative-Diya-Oil-Lamps/>



## HUMANISM

'Me and dog' by Gene Weingarten - a friendship story from a Pulitzer Prize-winning writer which gently explores a timeless question: who's really in charge? Sid, an ordinary kid, is far from perfect. But to Murphy, Sid's faithful dog, Sid is the whole world and in charge of everything. But Sid's just a kid, and Murphy's just a dog, and neither can control the world. This deceptively simple book is the perfect start to a discussion about belief in a world based on fact and reason, and not faith. Add it to the Resources list if your syllabus encourages you to look at this worldview.



## FOR YOUR OWN KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

At the British Museum, 'living with gods: peoples, places and worlds beyond' accompanies and expands on a recent 30-part Radio 4 series, which was recently broadcast. Written and presented by Neil MacGregor, a former director of the British Museum, it echoes his massively successful 'A History of the World in 100 Objects', by drawing on the treasures of the museum's collection to examine the subject of faith and belief.



As the established church wanes in our country, we frantically seek out alternatives in a multiplicity of diverse, and often somewhat faddish, forms — yoga, mindfulness, psychotherapy and a host of dietary fashions among them. It makes for a strangely atomised society. We have lost the sort of shared narratives (religious or otherwise) that once bound us together. And yet, at the same time, we are daily confronted by the most dogmatically held beliefs. All over the world, fundamentalist armies clash over questions of faith. How can we fit all the pieces of this confusing puzzle into a wider picture? That is precisely what this exhibition encourages us to think about. This is far more than a display of relics. So much of it is still relevant. Humankind's search for a grand narrative, says MacGregor, is what his radio series and this new British Museum show is about. *(taken from Rachel Campbell-Johnston, Times Review)*

## IF YOU LIKE YOUR APPS.....

RE-Definitions is a new app for RE teachers giving handy access to the pronunciation and meaning of more than 200 key terms. As an app on mobiles and tablets, and as a website on PCs, it's for non-specialists who want to understand the words and how to pronounce them with confidence and for specialists who want to brush up on their knowledge. In both audio and text, RE-Definitions provides accurate, clear, **resource-linked** definitions of key terms in seven religions and beliefs, in ethics and philosophy and in the study of religions and beliefs.

Visit the website at <http://re-definitions.org.uk>

Download the app from the Apple App Store or Google PlayStore, search 're-definitions'.



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Further information can be found on : [www.rochester-board-of-education.co.uk](http://www.rochester-board-of-education.co.uk)

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES 2018**

**FEBRUARY 2018**

Wednesday 21st February

**RE Support Group** - 1.30pm to 3-30pm  
Bennett Memorial Diocesan School, Tunbridge Wells  
TN4 9SH

Thursday 22nd February

**RE Support Group** - 1.30pm to 3-30pm  
Diocesan Offices, ME1 1SL



***Bromley schools should contact Lee Kings for details of their REConnect meetings.***

***At these meetings, we will be looking at whether or not the suggested assessment model is working, so please come prepared to share your experiences and practices within this conversation. We want to make sure that this element of the new syllabus is as helpful as it can be when we head into next year.***

**MARCH**

Tuesday 6th March

**Cof E Vision Training** - 1.30 pm - 4 pm Rochester Diocesan Offices,  
Boley Hill Rochester, ME1 1SL.

***By popular demand we are running this course one last time, but only if there is sufficient interest. please note this will be the final opportunity to attend this training as it will be the 5th time we have offered it.***

Wednesday 21st March

**New SIAMS framework:** 1.30 pm - 4 pm Southborough CEP School,  
Broom Hill Park Road, TN4 0JY

Friday 23rd March

**New SIAMS framework :** 1.30 pm - 4 pm Rochester Diocesan Offices,  
Boley Hill ME1 1SL **Now fully booked**

Monday 26th March

**New SIAMS framework :** 9.30 pm - 12 noon Rochester Diocesan  
Offices, Boley Hill ME1 1SL

Tuesday 27th March

**New SIAMS framework:** 1.30 pm - 4 pm Rochester Diocesan Offices,  
Boley Hill ME1 1SL

***Please note these will be the four opportunities offered for this training and no further courses are planned at present.***

**JUNE 2018**

Wednesday 6th June

**RE Support Group**—1.30pm to 3-30pm Bennett Memorial Diocesan  
School, Tunbridge Wells TN4 9SH

Thursday 7th June

**RE Support Group**—1.30pm to 3-30pm Diocesan Offices ME1 1SL

**\*\*\*Heads & Chairs breakfast briefings\*\*\***

**Thursday 7th June - 8.30—11am (coffee/pastries from 8am) Diocesan Offices Rochester ME1 1SL**

**Friday 8th June - 8.30-11am (coffee/pastries from 8am) Holiday Inn Wrotham**