



ROCHESTER DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

ISSUE NO: 41

APRIL 2018

RE – reviewing things so far



We are now very close to having completed the materials for the RE syllabus – there are still a few units to be completed and sent out for term 6, so please look out for those. You have also received some policy guidance to help you to review and re-write this document in the light of the new syllabus and its materials. An important part of the process of getting the syllabus right is to listen to your feedback in the summer **RE support group meetings** on:

Wednesday 6th June 1.30pm to 3-30pm

Bennett Memorial Diocesan School, Tunbridge Wells TN4 9SH

Thursday 7th June 1.30pm to 3-30pm

Rochester Diocesan Offices ME1 ISL

We will want to know

- What has gone well?
- What has not gone so well and needs improving?
- What more do you need to help your teachers to teach RE well?
- Is assessment working in ways which demonstrate progress? If not, how might the model for assessment be modified?

Bringing a small selection of books along is always helpful as it means that you can share real examples of what works and what needs further thought.

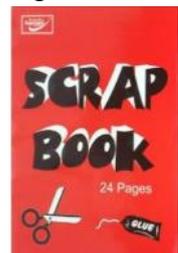
We will then go away and work on the materials, including what we offer for assessment, and then load the materials on to a USB stick to send into schools in time for September. This will mean that all the materials are in one place for you for your particular context.

I think it is worth saying here that many schools in other Dioceses do not receive the same level of support and detailed materials that Rochester Diocese has committed to producing for our schools. This investment in you as subject leaders and in RE as a core subject in all of our schools is important to us. Thank you for your commitment and hard work in this, especially over the past 2 years

Scrapbooking in RE

I have visited a number of schools that have experimented with 'scrapbooking'. This is a way of providing evidence for RE which is broader than 'just books'. Those who are using this approach are finding that it can

- help teachers become clearer about the sequence of their teaching as they follow the Understanding Christianity units and the new materials for teaching other world faiths
- record as many as possible of the children's comments and ideas during lesson time
- showcase other activities in RE rather than just writing
- focus teachers on less extended pieces of writing rather than work every week in an exercise book



I think that you will find that it works well and that it can enrich teaching and learning in RE.

RESOURCES FOR EXTENDING THINKING BY TAKING ACTION

Courageous Advocacy

The new SIAMS framework is eager to encourage pupils to provide opportunities for all pupils to engage in social action and understand how they can challenge injustice. It will also be important to help pupils to think about our care for and exploitation of the natural world. Here are some examples to start your thinking and planning.....

Share a Pencil Day

This is a fun and engaging event that incorporates many of our Church of England core values. Taking place on May 23rd, the week after Yr 6 SATs exams, it is the perfect opportunity to spread the word among our pupils and teaching staff about the millions of children still unable to access the education they deserve. On the day, pupils will be taught some of the reasons why so many children still cannot go to school and how important it is they do. During their Global Education lesson they will be asked to share one pencil between two while undertaking a few simple tasks, to understand first hand what it's like to lack the resources we take for granted. Available free to all primary and secondary schools, there is a full easy to follow teacher's resource pack including collective worship, lesson plans, short films and a poster template to design on the day.



IMPORTANT: Share a Pencil Day is not a charity or fund-raising day, it's simply about raising awareness of this incredibly important issue. To find out more visit <http://www.shareapencilday.co.uk>



Global Neighbours

Global Neighbours is a way of supporting, recognising and celebrating all that primary schools in England are doing to provide good global education.

The Global Neighbours accreditation scheme will be verified by the Church of England Education Office and will consist of three levels - bronze, silver and gold.

To achieve accreditation, schools will demonstrate how they are fulfilling criteria relating to:

- learning
- spirituality and worship
- pupil participation in active global citizenship
- community engagement
- school leadership

How will schools benefit from the scheme?

As well as the recognition attached to gaining accreditation status, the scheme will also help schools to fulfil the Church of England's vision of education that is 'deeply Christian and serving the common good'. In addition, by helping children to claim their voice as global citizens, participation in the scheme will help church schools develop and showcase their work in helping their pupils to become courageous advocates.



For further information, download the Global Neighbours handbook at <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/schools/global-neighbours-accreditation-scheme>

Grow Wild - Discover the Fungi Kingdom

The Church of England has been supporting Grow Wild, an initiative to change lives and transform spaces with UK native wildflowers. Some schools ordered free wild flower seeds from Grow Wild, turning unloved space into colourful wildflower havens for the whole school community to enjoy. These pockets of wild beauty will continue to contribute to the wellbeing of all members of the school community and offer children and young people an opportunity to engage with God's creation.

Applications for seed kits have now closed but schools can now learn about another part of nature that is hugely important to UK biodiversity and wildlife habitats - fungi! Schools can sign up for a free fungus kit to grow fungi in teams and learn about this fundamental part of the natural world that we need to cherish and protect.

Fungi are amazing

Fungi matter hugely to UK biodiversity and wildlife habitats, but they are misunderstood and often under-appreciated. Grow Wild is raising both understanding and the profile of fungi, as a fundamental part of the natural world we need to cherish and protect.

This is where you come in!

Our fungus kits are a great way to learn about the fungi kingdom and they're fun.



We want as many people as possible to appreciate and value fungi, so we're inviting teams across the UK to take up the challenge of growing a fungus. And once your fungus fruits, you will have tasty mushrooms to eat together!

See <https://www.growwilduk.com>

STAY IN AND HAVE FUN—GO OUT AND HAVE FUN

Pentecost Pause Day



Pause Days are an exciting initiative from the schools' department of Guildford Diocese Education Centre. They give schools an opportunity to engage with some high level thinking and reflection during an 'off-timetable' RE day, which also contributes to pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development. Although there will be some significant links with the RE curriculum, these Pause Day resources are not intended to replace the statutory RE units, but to provide 'space' to enhance and deepen pupils' understanding.

The Pause Day materials are:

- divided into age-appropriate phases;
- designed to be 'user friendly', to be detailed and to enable all staff and not just specialists to deliver high quality teaching, learning and reflection;
- designed to be delivered in one day.

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

Spirited Arts competition

<http://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/spirited-arts-2018/>

Now in its 15th year, this annual competition has attracted over 320,000 participants (averaging 20,000 per year), with 2,000 entries being sent in to NATRE each year for judging. Hundreds of UK schools get involved, and entries come from as far afield as Cyprus and Australia, Indonesia and South Africa. The annual competition starts at the beginning of every school year and runs through to 31 July, in order to enable teachers to incorporate the art competition into their RE lessons. Many schools have an 'Art in Heaven' unit of work, or a special learning RE/arts week. Judging by RE Today Advisers and students takes place in August and winners are announced in the new academic year.

- **E**ntering the competition is completely free! Schools can send up to 10 of their best entries for judging.

- **A**ll you need to do is select your entries, complete the online submission form and send the entries in to us. You can upload digital copies online, or you can post them in.



- **A**round 5 winners are picked per theme each year, and winning pupils are awarded a £20 Amazon voucher, and their school receives a £35 voucher to spend on RE resources.

Inspire your pupils to get creative and choose from this year's all-new themes:



- **H**oly Space?
- **P**ray! [Reflect! Meditate!]
- **D**oubt & Faith
- **L**ooking for God?
- **M**aking Peace



WINTERSHALL

Experience the story

The Life of Christ, an engaging outdoor biblical drama for all ages, presents the life and ministry of Jesus from his birth until his resurrection. See his miracles, hear his teaching and watch the significant events including the crucifixion and resurrection, accompanied by rousing music and live animals.

Enjoy the experience of following over one hundred actors of all ages, professionals and volunteers, in full costume, moving through the beautiful grounds, a landscape of lakes and parkland in the Surrey Hills re-enacting the remarkable events of Jesus' life. Schools, by prior arrangement for some performances, can meet cast members who will be happy to answer pupils' questions. The performance also serves as a rich stimulus for exploring Christian spirituality as well as for Biblical drama and theatre studies.

'The day taught the children more about the Christian faith than years of RE in the classroom' Teacher.

"It makes everything in the bible so real and accessible... Gave me a sense of being there 2000 years ago... Absolutely amazing and very atmospheric." Pupil comments

See

<http://www.wintershall-education.com/life-christ-production-3/>



**ISSUE NO: 41
APRIL 2018**

St Nicholas Church
Boley Hill
Rochester
ME1 1SL

Phone: 01634 560000
Fax: 01634 408942
Website: www.rochester-board-of-education.co.uk

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES 2018

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 Rochester ME1 1SL



Are you SIAMS ready?

Following the introductory training sessions for the new SIAMS schedule, we will be providing additional support as follows:

for the RE component, at the RE support group meetings which take place in the first week after each half term break (free to schools in the SLA)

for individual schools, in the form of a half day visit tailored to the needs of each individual school (please see SLA for details of the charge)

Please contact Virginia virginia.corbyn@rochester.anglican.org for further details

Diocesan Education Service of Thanksgiving, Rochester Cathedral

Wednesday 27th June 2018 - 5.30 pm start

Up to 5 people from each school are invited to attend the service to include senior staff, governors, teachers, classroom and other support staff. We look forward to welcoming you all for your help in making this service a time of praise, thanksgiving and celebration for all our church schools in the diocese.

Please complete the reply form attached to indicate the number who will be coming to help with our practical arrangements and send to Teresa (teresa.spearink@rochester.anglican.org) – we will be offering hospitality for everybody either at the Bishop's House or at the Diocesan offices.

*****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