



## ROCHESTER DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

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JUNE 2017

### \*\*\*\*\*THE NEW RE SYLLABUS 2017 - WHERE WE ARE NOW\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you for attending the training for 'Understanding Christianity' during the last academic year. As a result of all of your hard work and willingness to share your ideas, enthusiasm and expertise, I have been able to put together the overviews for our schools in preparation for implementing our new RE syllabus from September 2017.

If you have not attended the Understanding Christianity training at all or if you have missed one of the whole days of training (there is one more day 2 session on 13 July), please let us know so that we can make sure that we contact you about this and make some alternative arrangements.

Your RE overview has been sent to your school. If you have not received it, please let me know. In putting together the overviews, I have done my best to take into account what was said to me during training together with the requirements of the Church of England Statement of Entitlement for Religious Education and the need to provide a broad and balanced curriculum for the teaching of RE.

Here are the legal requirements for the various schools across the Diocese:

**For all VA schools,** it is recommended that you adopt the new Diocesan RE syllabus. This needs to be approved by your Governing Body.

**For VC schools in Medway,** you will be following the Medway Agreed Syllabus supported by Rochester materials.

**For VC schools in Bromley,** you will be following the Bromley Agreed Syllabus supported by Rochester materials.

**For VC schools in Bexley,** you will be following the Bexley Agreed Syllabus supported by Rochester materials.

**For VC schools in Kent,** you will be following the Kent Agreed Syllabus supported by Rochester materials – *please note that this is still in draft form until the new Kent Agreed Syllabus is ratified.*

I fully appreciate that there is a degree of challenge in moving to the new materials but I am delighted with the enthusiasm with which our RE subject leaders have embraced them. With this in mind, I am confident in the quality of the materials to improve and enhance learning and teaching for Christianity in all of our schools.

**Virginia Corbyn**



## THE NEW SYLLABUS: GUIDING YOU THROUGH THE NEXT FEW MONTHS

Here is some important guidance which goes alongside the training and the overview for your syllabus:

- This syllabus should be implemented from September 2017 but it will take some time to be established given the significant changes and expectations – therefore 2017/18 will be a 'pilot' year.
- There is an expectation that RE subject leaders have prepared teachers for the new syllabus using materials from the 'Understanding Christianity' training days.
- Teachers will be expected to plan for RE differently from September 2017 as the new syllabus does not provide a lesson by lesson structure as has previously been the case.
- All year groups can start with a unit from 'Understanding Christianity' in term 1 – however, if reception teachers want to start with 'I am special', this should be based on the unit from the previous syllabus and planned with EYFS expectations in mind.
- The units for faiths other than Christianity will be provided – these will start to arrive from summer 2017 onwards.
- For planning, there were a number of models suggested during training – RE subject leaders will be able to advise on this.
- For assessment, additional guidance will be provided as soon as it is ready.
- For mixed age planning, there will be additional guidance in due course.
- The RE subject leaders network meetings in 2017-18 will continue to focus on and provide on-going support for the implementation of the new syllabus.



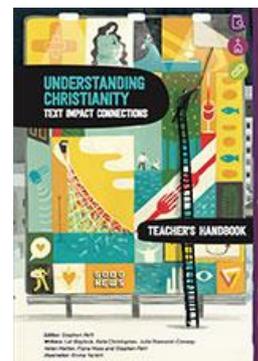
### Understanding Christianity resources



Some schools have asked if they can buy another hard copy of the Understanding Christianity resources. We have some extra copies at the Diocese.

These cost £55 excluding P&P – it would be best if you could collect them rather than posting them to you. Please enquire with Teresa if you would like to buy another set of resources.

[teresa.spearink@rochester.anglican.org](mailto:teresa.spearink@rochester.anglican.org)



## CHILDREN WALKING FOR PEACE

UN World Peace Day - 21st September 2017

This is an initiative to show children how wonderful would it be to walk for peace with other children all over the world

There's plenty of time to plan where you're going to set out a labyrinth... they're easy to mark with chalk in a playground, rope on a field or set out with stones and pebbles gathered by the children... make some finger labyrinths for those who find walking a challenge.. There's a free download here on how to draw a labyrinth <http://www.pilgrimpaths.co.uk/page35.html> If you'd like any advice please email me [barbara@pilgrimpaths.co.uk](mailto:barbara@pilgrimpaths.co.uk)



This initiative comes from The Netherlands – here is the Facebook Page about them. <https://www.facebook.com>



**Thank Your Vicar Week**  
Oct 15-22 2017



**Hundreds of Church of England parishes and primary schools will be saying a big thank you to their vicar this autumn, as the second national Thank Your Vicar Week kicks off from October 15-22.**

### What is Thank Your Vicar Week?

- Thank Your Vicar Week gives parishes and Church of England primary schools the opportunity to say a big thank you for everything your clergy does for the community
- It's happening from Sun 15–Sun 22 October, to coincide with St Luke's Feast Day on 18 October

- It's organised by St Luke's Healthcare for the Clergy, a charity which cares for clergy health and wellbeing

### How does my school get involved?

Schools are invited to hold a special Thank Your Vicar assembly, using free downloadable resources. These have been designed to enhance the primary RE curriculum.

### You'll find plenty of inspiration from our resources to help you to ...

- Invite your vicar to the assembly, and celebrate what they do for your school and community
- Organise a simple fundraising event as part of Thank Your Vicar Week, as a tangible way of appreciating your vicar's work. This money will help to continue the work of St Luke's Healthcare for the Clergy, which cares for the health and wellbeing of Anglican clergy and their families.
- Tell us how you celebrated your week – email stories and photos to [events@stlukeshealthcare.org.uk](mailto:events@stlukeshealthcare.org.uk)
- **For more information, email**

### #iwillWeek –

**20-24 November 2017**



#iwillWeek celebrates the impact young people, between 10 and 20 years old, are making in our community.

C of E Schools that want to get involved and highlight the benefits of youth social action through new and existing events and activities during #iwillWeek can click [here](#) to access some specially created resources. There are invites, posters, background #iwill information, a guide to running an event and much more – please do take a look.

If you are planning to join in with #iwillWeek make sure the campaign team know. Visit the [#iwillWeek](#) page and click the 'submit an event' button to add your activity to the #iwillWeek map.

If you have any further questions about the week do drop the #iwill team an email at [hello@stepuptoserve.org.uk](mailto:hello@stepuptoserve.org.uk)

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

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES 2017

#### JULY

**Thursday 13th July FINAL DAY 2 of Understanding Christianity.**  
9.30 am—4 pm Rochester Diocesan Offices, St. Nicholas Church, Boley Hill, Rochester ME1 1SL.  
(*This course is for those who have already attended day 1 of the training.*)



#### OCTOBER

**Monday 16th October Governor Training for Understanding Christianity 4.30 pm to 6-30pm** at the Diocesan Offices, St. Nicholas Church Boley Hill, Rochester ME1 1SL

#### NOVEMBER

**Wednesday 1st November RE Support Group—1.30 pm—4 pm** Tunbridge Wells (Venue tbc)  
**Thursday 2nd November RE Support Group—1.30 pm-4pm** Diocesan Offices, Boley Hill Rochester ME1 1SL

**Bromley schools should contact Lee Kings for details of their REConnect meetings.**  
**Bexley schools should attend the meeting on either 1st or 2nd November (see above)**

**Tuesday 21st November Governor Training for Understanding Christianity. 4.30 pm to 6-30pm**  
at the Diocesan Offices Rochester ME1 1SL

#### FEBRUARY 2018

**Wednesday 21st February RE Support Group—1.30 pm —4 pm** Tunbridge Wells (Venue tbc)  
**Thursday 22nd February RE Support Group —1 .30 pm —4 pm** Diocesan Offices, ME1 1SL

#### JUNE 2018

**Wednesday 6th June RE Support Group—1.30 pm —4 pm** Tunbridge Wells (Venue tbc)  
**Thursday 7th June RE Support Group—1.30 pm —4 pm** Diocesan Offices ME1 1SL

**\*\*\*2018 CHURCH SCHOOLS' CELEBRATIONS\*\*\***

**Tuesday 12th, Wednesday 13th, Thursday 14th and Friday 15th June**