



## ROCHESTER DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

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MARCH 2016



### I wonder... using Godly Play in school

I know that some of you have been using Godly Play in schools for some time to help you to explore Bible stories in a creative and thoughtful way. For those of you who have not yet come across this approach, there is a taster day offering some initial training at

**The Brassey centre, Aylesford ME20 7QR**  
**Thursday 21st April, 2016 9.30 am -3.30 pm**  
**£10 inc. lunch**

This training is open to anyone who wants to experience Godly Play for use in their school or church. To reserve your place, please E-mail: [Sdonlan@diocant.org](mailto:Sdonlan@diocant.org) **Deadline: 5th April**

### How does Godly Play enhance RE and SMSC in school?

**G**odly Play provides an imaginative approach to religious education that ...

- ◆ Promotes knowledge, skills empathy, values, spiritual growth.
- ◆ Develops the needs of the whole child: mind, body and spirit
- ◆ Provides a multisensory approach to learning
- ◆ Develops language and communication skills
- ◆ Gives everyone the opportunity to speak for themselves
- ◆ Develops thinking skills
- ◆ Provides depth and reflection in every session
- ◆ Gives time for learning
- ◆ Promotes originality, independent choice and decision making
- ◆ Uses visual, auditory and kinaesthetic approaches to learning

### Creating a special time and place

**G**odly Play involves creating a special time and space in which children can encounter and engage with religious story. The teacher and the children create a circle that becomes a safe place for learning in which new ideas and experiences can be share. The pace of the lesson is slowed down to allow time to appreciate

and explore the story in greater depth. Using a quiet voice creates a calm and reflective atmosphere.

### Well designed materials

**T**he materials used to tell Godly Play stories are well designed, simple and beautifully made many from different natural woods. The storyteller models the careful handling of the materials for the children. Keeping eyes on the materials and not having eye contact with the children may seem hard at first but by trusting the process the materials tell their own story and by focussing on the story the children's attention is also drawn and held.



### I wonder



**W**hen the story is finished re-engaging eye contact with the children invites response to the open question 'I wonder'. The replies are

endless as the children are encouraged to explore beyond the immediate responses – all responses are valued, and so begins an interplay of creative and imaginative thoughts and ideas.

### Responding creatively

**F**ollowing time in the circle the children are given a range of art materials to use to think more about the story and their response to it. This enables the wondering to continue helping them to think things through for themselves. This may involve painting, drawing, reading, using the computer or even retelling the story by using the materials for themselves. It is important to stand back and let the children explore their own ideas and to make meaning for themselves. Endings are as important as beginnings and by re gathering the children in the circle an opportunity is given for children to share their ideas or their work.

## RESOURCES FOR ALL SCHOOLS

### Rochester Cathedral



opposite Rochester Castle, one of the best preserved Norman keeps in the country.

Rochester Cathedral, founded in 604AD, is England's second oldest Cathedral. It is situated directly



Act out the story of the spread of Christianity in Anglo Saxon England.

\*Dress as a monk and find out about the impact of monasticism on Mediaeval life.

\*Take a pilgrimage to the shrine of St William of Perth dressed as a medieval pilgrim.

\*Meet Walter de Boxley, last Prior of the Monastery of St Andrew and find out what the Tudors did for us.



**The full offer can be viewed at:  
[www.rochestercathedral.org](http://www.rochestercathedral.org)**

**Visits from £2 per pupil**

**All student groups must book in advance.**

This is a very busy cathedral and sadly we often have to turn away un-booked groups.

**Rochester Cathedral Education Department**

**01634 810066**

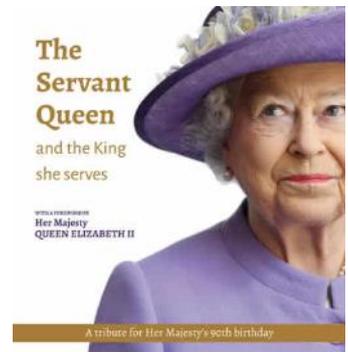
**[educationofficer@rochestercathedral.org](mailto:educationofficer@rochestercathedral.org)**



### The Servant Queen and the King She Serves

The Queen's 90th birthday gives churches a great opportunity to bring communities together to celebrate her life and Christian faith. HOPE, Bible Society and the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity have produced a stunning, full-colour, book which

uses the Queen's own words to draw out the central role of her trust in Jesus Christ. It will be a wonderful conversation starter. This 64-page book 'The Servant Queen and the King She Serves' will be available next month in packs of 10 at £1 a copy (plus p&p). Scripture Union has produced a 12-page schools' version, with a lesson plan and assembly outline and CPO has a matching range of posters, banners and invitations. Start planning to hold a Thanksgiving Service and street party in June to celebrate the Queen's birthday.



www.scriptureunion.org.uk/3711554.id#.VrnaHvmLTIU



### Teach RE Course Want to teach RE? Already teaching RE? Have to teach RE?

The Culham St Gabriel's Teach RE course is a distance learning course designed to support teachers' subject knowledge, and to provide opportunities to apply this to classroom practice. The course is appropriate for all teachers of RE or those planning to teach the subject. We currently have teachers from primary, special and secondary schools taking the course as well as those who are entering Initial Teacher Training.

The course comprises an audit, and three modules. These modules include opportunities to explore a rationale for RE, create a presentation, write an essay or develop a scheme of learning. Modules on field trips, primary subject leadership and curriculum design have also been recently developed.

Culham St Gabriel's are delighted to be able to offer 'bulk buy' packages, when five or more places are bought together. This means £125 per trainee, rather than the usual £150. Why not think about signing up your NATRE affiliated local group? You could work together and share your learning with one another. Every trainee has a tutor allocated to them, so 1:1 support is provided throughout the course. If you would like more information about the course please email [kathryn@cstg.org.uk](mailto:kathryn@cstg.org.uk) or visit our website [www.teachre.co.uk](http://www.teachre.co.uk).

## BRITISH VALUES

Whilst your current RE syllabus may not include Islam in EYFS, the consideration of British Values is high on the agenda and to support you with this, *for a limited time only, the Complete Muslim Resource Set, from Books at Press, can be yours for just £79, a saving of £31.*

The pack includes:

- The Tiny Ants big book and resource pack
- The Tiny Ants standard book
- Seven New Kittens standard book
- Seven New Kittens big book and resource pack
- The Baby Birds standard book with CD ROM
- The Baby Birds puppet set for imaginative play and to support literacy and numeracy activities.



For only £79 your pupils will be able, not only to enjoy the delightful stories but to engage in the fabulous cross curricular activities; including story board cards and a range of number, sorting and matching games to support literacy and numeracy.

The set, is accompanied by comprehensive planning material that reflects the EYFS 2014 curriculum, supporting British Values and linking the People and Communities section with all other Areas of Learning.

To order or to find out more, contact

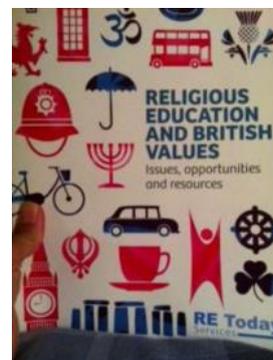
**Emma Tapper**  
**Business Administrator**  
**Books at Press**  
**Telephone: 01594 516490**  
**[www.booksatpress.co.uk](http://www.booksatpress.co.uk)**

## Religious Education and British Values

Written and edited by the RE Today advisory team, this book also includes a review of the inspection requirements, suggestions for policy and curriculum development and some tried-and-tested RE lesson ideas that explore tolerance, respect, democracy, the rule of law and individual liberty.

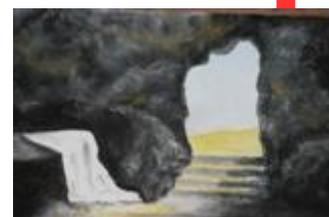
Working with other RE leaders, for example in SACREs, RE Today advisory staff have produced a clear and concise guide which can be used when teaching pupils aged 5-16.

*This is a useful resource and comes recommended by those who have already bought it. If 10 or more people in your local group order a copy together, there will be a discount with the book costing £12.50 a copy instead of £15.*



## Easter Pause Days

(courtesy of the Diocese of Guildford)



I know that many of you like to plan special events for Easter. Schools in Guildford Diocese have shared their creative and imaginative ideas on their Diocesan website. All well as detailed planning for specific age groups, there is a beautiful set of images to use which could make your Easter really special this year. Highly recommended!

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

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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 2016**

**2016**

**FEBRUARY**

Wednesday 24th February

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*) Visiting places of worship.

Thursday 25th February

RE Support Group—Rochester Diocesan Offices ME1 1SL. **1.30 pm—4 pm** Visiting places of worship

Friday 26th February

RE Support Group—Crayford Community Hall (Bexley Schools) **1.30 pm to 4 pm** Visiting places of worship

**MARCH**

Tuesday 1st March

SIAMS briefing—Learning Walks 1.30 pm—4pm Diocesan Offices, Boley Hill, Rochester ME1 1SL

Wednesday 9th March

CPD for Primary Teachers—world faiths (other than Christianity) **Judaism** 1.30pm— 4 pm Diocesan Offices, Boley Hill, Rochester ME1 1SL

Wednesday 16th March

CPD for Primary Teachers—world faiths (other than Christianity) **Sikhism** 1.30 pm—4pm Diocesan Offices, Boley Hill, Rochester ME1 1SL

Wednesday 23rd March

Extremism Awareness Training (EAT) 9.30 am—11.30 am Diocesan Offices, Boley Hill Rochester ME1 1SL

Wednesday 23rd March

CPD for Primary Teachers—world faiths (other than Christianity) **Asking & Answering the Big Question.** 1.30pm-4pm Diocesan Offices, Boley Hill, Rochester ME1 1SL

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

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

Thursday 28th April

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

Friday 29th April

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

