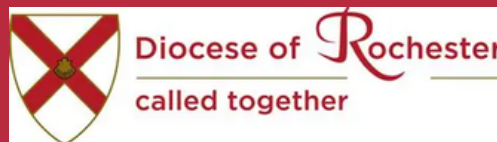


DECEMBER 2025

NEWSLETTER

RE LEADERS



Christmas greetings

Dear RE Leaders and Colleagues across the Diocese,

As we come to the end of a very full and fruitful term, I want to take a moment to thank you for all you continue to do in shaping the Christian distinctiveness and theological integrity of your schools. Your leadership, creativity, and commitment to high-quality RE make an enormous difference every single day. As we approach Christmas, I hope you find moments of rest, renewal, and genuine joy.



Difference course

We are seeing an increasing need to develop a Religion and Worldviews approach to the planning and teaching of RE.

We highly recommend starting with the Difference course.

Difference for Primary Schools is a free suite of resources to help your school navigate an increasingly complex world, inspired by Jesus to embrace difference and champion a culture of hope and empathy.

It is free and can be completed online as a whole staff.

Details can be found [here](#)



InspiREd Course

A huge congratulations to the following colleagues who successfully completed the InspiREd course this past year:

- Amanda Andrew (Lamorbey Holy Trinity CE Primary)
- Sandra Sheldrake (St Paul's CE Primary, Rusthall)
- Natasha Brownfield (St George's CE Primary, Wrotham)
- Fi Parkin (St Mary's Island CE Primary)

We are delighted to celebrate your achievement and your ongoing contribution to RE across the Diocese.

You can now enrol for the next cohort [here](#)



Useful CPD & Resources

RE:ONLINE Essays – High-quality subject knowledge across worldviews.

Access [here](#)

Culham St Gabriel's E-Learning – Free online RE training suitable for all levels.

Explore [here](#)



RE – Outcome of Curriculum and Assessment Review Summary

Current status of RE:

- Religious Education (RE) is compulsory but not part of the National Curriculum since the 1988 Education Reform Act.
- Each local authority provides its own agreed syllabus – Kent, Bexley etc

Review findings:

- RE's importance is undervalued in the current curriculum.
- Recommends moving RE into the National Curriculum to improve quality and prevent decline.
- Suggests a 'staged approach to reform' for this transition.

Proposed Government action:

- Establish an independent 'task and finish' group including representatives from:
 - Faith bodies
 - Secular groups
 - Education experts
- Group to decide how RE should be taught within a new national framework.

Summary: Curriculum and Assessment Review – Key Points for RE Leaders



Don't forget to book your place on the RE conference on 13th March!

Any Questions or Reflections?

We'd love to hear from you. Share your feedback or suggestions for future network meetings. Together, we continue to grow a vibrant, reflective, and enriching RE provision for our pupils. With every good wish for a peaceful and joyful Christmas,

Ruth Parnell

(RE and Collective Worship Schools Advisor)

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SIAMS 2025 – Key Insights and Areas for Development

Here are four key take-aways for RE Leads from the 2024–2025 SIAMS Annual Report that are particularly relevant for planning and development:

What's going well

- Where school leaders develop a theologically grounded, context-appropriate Christian vision, that vision is often very effective in enabling "flourishing"—for staff, pupils, and the wider school community.
- In many schools, curriculum planning is strong: the Christian vision is shaping a broad, holistic curriculum (not just RE) that seeks to foster spiritual development and human flourishing — integrating values, character formation, and a sense of purpose.

Key development needs — especially for RE

- For a substantial number of schools, RE remains inconsistent: teaching about other religions and non-religious worldviews is often weak or superficial; assessment and monitoring of RE are patchy; and RE is sometimes under-resourced (in terms of time, teacher subject knowledge, and CPD). Squarespace
- Many schools struggle to embed spirituality and spiritual development consistently across the curriculum. Some treat spirituality as a "bolt-on" rather than a core, integrated part of school life — meaning opportunities for deep spiritual growth (through worship, reflection, justice, community, etc.) are often missed or incidental rather than intentionally designed.

We see these findings reflected across our Diocese and in others would benefit from more time and attention. We strongly encourage all our leaders to engage with the Diocesan training and support.

UPCOMING TRAINING:

Full details and booking available [here](#)

January

- Inspired 2026 session 1

February

- Christian Character conference
- IQ5 - Creating a culture of Justice and Responsibility

March

- RE Leaders conference
- Christianity basics