

RE NEWS

Summer 2020 EDITION

*Research and
Resources*

Summer 2020 will doubtless continue the challenges of the first few months of this decade. This edition of RE News is therefore very different – we hope it provides some food for thought in these strange times



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RE Support

The diocese employs a dedicated RE Adviser who is, in normal times, available to visit schools to offer bespoke training, advice, support and resources. In the current situation please phone or email in the first instance or check out the RE pages <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/schools/religious-education/> of the website for the Diocesan Scheme of Work for RE, support materials and links to teaching resources. There are sample policies and all the Locally Agreed Syllabuses can be accessed, along with the guidance material that supports them. If you want to book a session, either contact the Link Adviser for your school or email me directly on anne.andrews@oxford.anglican.org. Schools in the Service Level Agreement can usually use credits towards RE support; for other schools, payment may be required at standard diocesan rates.

Any comments, articles or suggestions for inclusion in future editions;
any other questions or queries on RE, please email anne.andrews@oxford.anglican.org

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Langford Locks

Web: <https://www.oxford.anglican.org/schools/religious-education/>

Kidlington

Do-it-yourself CPD

British Library Sacred Texts: <https://www.bl.uk/sacred-texts#>

If you want to improve your knowledge of a range of historical sacred texts the British Library online has some amazing exhibits. There are teaching resources, articles as well as beautiful photographs of the texts and artefacts in their collection. The resources cover all the major faiths



covered by locally agreed syllabuses in the area and a range

of ages, with a particular focus on secondary schools. There are scholarly articles that address a range of ethical and religious issues, using the texts in the collection as a basis. There are illuminated texts, texts focusing on the role of women in faith, how texts are used in devotion and their history. The collection can be searched by theme, or by faith. There are videos and lesson ideas as well.



There are plans to extend the materials to provide information and activities aimed at younger children.

When you can get out on visits, there are regularly excellent exhibitions, and these can be facilitated by the education department.

Westminster Abbey: <https://www.westminster-abbey.org/learning/teaching-resources>

At this time of being unable to visit a place of worship, Westminster Abbey has created a range of resources including a virtual tour of the Abbey. There are resources for primary and secondary schools, covering a range of topics. Some of the resources link to other subjects, such as history and English as well. There are PowerPoints and PDFs to download, many of them containing beautiful pictures of artefacts belonging to the Abbey. Topics include a guide to each of Lent, Holy Week, Easter. There are challenging questions for older pupils such as “Why is the resurrection so important to Christians today?” and videos of debates about Islamophobia and LGBTQ issues.



Humanists UK (www.understandinghumanism.org.uk) and The National Secular Society (www.exploringsecularism.org.uk)

Both of these websites have a range of resources and background information for teachers. There are lesson plans to download and themes to explore, and with the suggestion from the Commission on Religious Education Report that worldviews should form part of the study in RE, these resources are worth checking out.

Diocese of Oxford: www.oxford.anglican.org/schools/religious-education/

The RE pages of the diocesan website contain a wealth of information, including links to many resources including syllabuses, policies, guidance and support materials. Check back regularly as the website will be updated with new resources as they become available. Some of the key materials are listed again here, with a bit more information to get you started.

RE Online: www.reonline.org.uk

This website has a huge range of materials to support subject knowledge enhancement and RE leadership advice. There is also a section that contains summaries and links to of much of the latest RE Research: <https://researchforre.reonline.org.uk/>

Big Ideas for Religious Education: <https://www.reonline.org.uk/news/big-ideas-for-religious-education/>

Edited by Barbara Wintersgill this is a detailed document looking at curriculum planning in RE. It presents a fresh approach that may give you food for thought as you consider the way forward for RE in your school. There is also a follow on resource – **Putting Big Ideas for religious Education into Practice** – and both resources are available to download from RE Online

Religious literacy: a way forward for Religious Education?: <https://www.reonline.org.uk/news/religious-literacy-a-way-forward-for-religious-education/>

This report is the outcome of a Culham St Gabriel's Trust Research 7 funded project which took place over 12 months. The aim of the project was to consider the idea of 'religious literacy' as an aim for religious education and as an organising principle for curriculum, pedagogy and assessment. The project was a collaboration between Brunel University London and Hampshire Inspection and Advisory Service. Culham St Gabriel's welcomes responses to this report particularly from serving teachers, you can email us at contact@reonline.org.uk. This report is also available to download from RE Online

Farmington Scholarships <http://www.farmington.ac.uk/index.php/farmington-scholarships/>

If the **Research for RE** site catches your imagination, you can read many of the reports that have been written by teachers gaining Farmington scholarships. These research reports are written mostly by serving teachers and therefore have a direct application to classroom practice. As you read, you might get an idea for something that you would like to research. If so, prepare an application ready for the January 2021 deadline.

Reforming Religious Education: Power and Knowledge in a Worldviews Curriculum

This is a newly published book written by Mark Chater, former CEO of the Culham St Gabriel Trust. It explores reasons why RE urgently needs radical reform, how key leaders can make this happen, and how the new good practice is already breaking through. Available from most good booksellers at £16.00.



Religious Education Teachers and Character <https://www.jubileecentre.ac.uk/1755/projects/current-projects/religious-education-teachers>

This is a research report published by the Jubilee Centre and the University of Birmingham in November 2019. It is based on research into the influence of teachers' beliefs and worldviews on the teaching and learning of pupils. The report is available to download.

Balanced RE: www.balancedre.org.uk

This is a developing website with information about curriculum development using Theology, Philosophy and Social and Human Sciences. There is further information about this work on RE online as well:

<https://www.reonline.org.uk/leading-re/re-in-a-broad-and-balanced-curriculum-a-practical-tool/>

and an audit tool for primary and secondary schools on the website of the Diocese of York:

<https://dioceseofyork.org.uk/uploads/attachment/3999/self-evaluation-audit-primary-sept-18.pdf>

<https://dioceseofyork.org.uk/uploads/attachment/4000/self-evaluation-audit-secondary-sept-18.pdf>

TrueTube: www.truetube.co.uk

This website has films and activities for all levels, which are great for use in class, but also as CPD for teachers. There is such a wide variety of resources available, it would take too long to describe them all. You could go soul searching with Charlie and Blue, explore the Nativity through different Gospel versions, learn about Passover or for something more challenging eavesdrop on a conversation about extremism.

Looking ahead

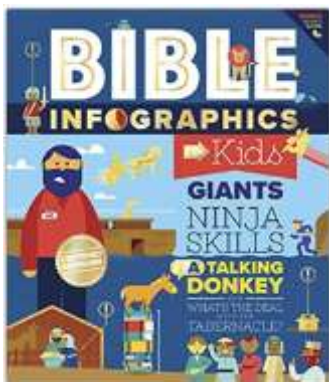
The **NATRE South Central Inspiring RE Conference** - for primary and secondary school teachers in South Central has been rescheduled to Wednesday **14th October 2020!** If you had already booked your place will be carried over, unless you are unable to make the new date. There are still spaces available so to book for only £60 or to get a refund, please contact finance@woodlandacademy.co.uk For more information or to book via Eventbrite, please click [here](#).

The next biennial **Diocesan RE Conference** is scheduled to take place on the 10th March 2021 at the Bicester Golf Hotel and Spa, Green Lane, Chesterton, Bicester, Oxfordshire OX26 1TH. This will be an afternoon and early evening event, but at this point in time just save the date; details to follow!

Some resources you might want to explore ready for the new year:

Blockbuster Bible – This is suitable for years 5 and 6, and with the teacher's book offer lesson plans, activities, games and video clips. It is published by Lion Hudson and is available through online bookshops. This publisher has a large range of other resources for religious education, including a Bible Handbook, a history of the Bible and a Bible Atlas.





Bible Infographics for Kids – There are two volumes in this series that contain colourful creations visually depicting the key concepts, important people, and most unusual facts from the Bible in a new and exciting way.

For instance, did you know? You'd need 7,453,506 soccer balls to fill up Noah's Ark. Paul travelled over 10,000 miles on his missionary journeys-the distance from New York City to Rio Grande at the tip of South America. There is a talking donkey in the Bible. There is also a Bible timeline board game that folds out from the middle of the book. Available on Amazon (and elsewhere online).

Springs Dance Company

The Parables of The Good Samaritan & The Lost Coin and ***The Selfish Giant*** workshops. Booking for this and next academic year. Dates can be pencilled in and date adjusted as required due to the current COVID-19 outbreak.



Springs Dance Company delivers RE, PSHE and Citizenship through dance, creative exploration and discussion. The ***Parable of The Good Samaritan*** workshops focus on the importance of helping others. Children will consider the relevance of parables, think about what is important and ask moral questions, going deeper into RE. Alongside the workshops, the whole school could take part in a fun-filled interactive assembly performance on the ***Parable of The Lost Coin***. The ***Selfish Giant*** workshops are based on the story by Oscar Wilde and consider how the giant's actions can impact others, himself and the world around him. The workshops links to British Values, Literacy and PSHE. They can also extend to include RE.

Springs workshops will be a great way to bring children back together when the schools re open, through fun, energetic and creative sessions.

For further details on ***The Parables of The Good Samaritan & The Lost Coin***:

https://springsdancecompany.org.uk/images/downloads/Parables_of_the_Good_Samaritan_and_The_Lost_Coin.pdf

For further details on ***The Selfish Giant*** workshops:

https://springsdancecompany.org.uk/images/downloads/The_Selfish_Giant_Workshop_Information_Document.pdf

To book for this or next academic year and to find out more please email touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk or call 07876 752 910 to find out more.

Coming soon:

Connecting with the Bible

This is a new resource from the Diocese of Oxford containing background information for teachers on the Bible and a range of Bible based collective worship activities for teachers to use in class or collective worship. This resource has been produced with funding from the Bayne Benefaction and will be arriving soon in schools free of charge.