

DARE bulletin

Diocesan Adviser's RE bulletin spring 2019

Welcome to the spring term and to the year 2019! I hope you have returned refreshed and that term has started well for you all.

I have enjoyed receiving RE news and photos from across Suffolk and want to thank you for sharing your pupils' work with me. It is exciting to see such good examples of RE in the classroom. Thank you for all your hard work.

I look forward to hearing from you, or seeing you in school, or at an RE network group or an RE course this spring. If you are a new Subject Leader and missed the RE Subject Leader course last term, try one of the Basics courses to get you started, and definitely make your way to an RE network.



Don't forget the NQTs and the RQTs in your school.

You may just be in time to catch a place for them on the NQT course in Ipswich on January 16th.

Enjoy this term's bulletin. *Do copy the bulletin to other staff who teach RE.* For all former DARE bulletins see:

<http://www.cofesuffolk.org.uk> – follow church schools / RE.

Finally, for your diaries: On **June 6th 6.30 – 7.30** there will be a service of thanksgiving at Bury Cathedral for all those involved in RE with pupils in school. It will be part of a month-long celebration of work with, and in schools, and will include a farewell to both myself and Helen Woodroffe as we retire this year. We would love to see you there. You are the ones who make it all happen and we want to thank you too!

Further details will be on their way to you soon.

Have a great term! **Helen Matter, Diocesan Schools' Adviser**

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The Diocese of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich provides an expert RE service to all primary schools in Suffolk, working alongside other INSET providers, helping schools work effectively and creatively on RE and CW. .



Dates to keep in mind this spring:

It would not be good to base your RE simply around religious festivals; this would give a very skewed picture of the world of religion. However, it is always a good idea for the RE subject Leader to have an eye on the religious calendar and to look out for opportunities to **enrich** the RE programme with authentic news items, artefacts and stories, marking religious festivals. Reminders in assembly, a Festival noticeboard, a not to a class studying that particular religion are all useful possibilities.

Keep up to date here: <https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/uk/2019>

You have probably just missed Epiphany but if you did mark Three Kings day, send me your photos!



Watch out for **Tu B' Shevat** (Jan 21), **Conversion of St Paul** (Jan 25), **Shrove Tuesday** and **Ash Wednesday** (5 and 6 March), **Purim** and **Holi** (21 March). And all the special days leading up to Easter.

You might also want to make something of the **Patron Saints**, all of which apart from St Andrew (Nov 30th), fall in the spring St David (Mar 1), St Patrick (Mar 17) and St George (April 23).

World Religion Day – Sunday January 20th

World Religion Day is an excellent opportunity to celebrate the work you do in RE to meet members of different faiths and hold RE events.



The first such day was observed in 1950, set up by the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahais in America.

Baha'i is a form of religion that emerged in 19th century Persia and follows three core principles: unity of God, religion and humankind. The photo here is the famous Baha'i Temple in

Delhi. Baha'is believe that there is a single God and the spirituality of all religions in the world stem from this single god. They also believe that all humans are born equal and have the same rights and duties.

World Religion Day calls for members of all religions in the world to recognize that 'all religions have common spiritual goals'. Subject Leaders should be aware that this particular Baha'i principle is not accepted by members of all faiths, however, and that religions, while sharing many values and some similar practices, do not in general have shared religious or spiritual goals, but rather, very different ways of looking at the nature of God and human existence.

Having said this, what a great hook for RE Days in school, discussing similarities and differences in religions and so on. And what a great opportunity to practise respect and tolerance for those of all beliefs or none.

There are a number of simple video presentations on Baha'i on the internet if you would like to learn more about this faith.

Holocaust Memorial Day – Sunday January 27th



Holocaust Memorial Day is another key occasion to celebrate the role of RE in our schools. It is a day when we remember how important it is not to spread messages of hate, or to exclude people because things like the colour of their skin or what religious beliefs they have. BBC Newsround has a useful short film: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/38668425>

The reason it is held on 27 January is because this was the day in 1945 that the soldiers fighting against the Germans took over the largest Nazi concentration camp called Auschwitz-Birkenau and freed the prisoners there who were still alive.

Something to plan for:



We mention this each year but now is the time to get planning for the 'Spirited Arts' competition run by the National Association of RE Teachers (NATRE).

<https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/spirited-arts-2019/>

Why not get involved in this year's competition!



In its 16th year, this competition has attracted over 320,000 participants (averaging 20,000 per year!) since 2004, with 2,000 entries being sent in to NATRE each year for judging. Hundreds of UK schools get involved, and we get entries coming from as far a-field as Cyprus and Australia, Indonesia and South Africa.

The competition runs right through the school year so you have time to incorporate the competition into lessons. Many schools hold a special RE/arts week at the end of the summer, as the closing date is 31st July, with judging in August and winners announced in the new academic year.

Themes for 2019 – NATRE has some exciting new themes for you and your pupil's this year. We have reproduced them on the next page for you but do go on the website and check out the whole competition. Look at some of the galleries of past winners and discover other useful material for RE teachers on this classroom focussed website.

Pilgrimages and journeys	<p>In this theme, great work may refer to Makkah, Varanasi, Bethlehem, Amritsar, Bodh Gaya or other spiritual places where pilgrims gather. But it could be about your own pilgrimage through life. Why are these journeys significant? What makes a pilgrim – is it something in your heart? What do people get out of their spiritual journeys? What guides people on life’s journey? Are holy books maps for the pilgrim? What hopes are fulfilled at the journey’s end? Use wise sayings from scripture or other sources to reflect in your art.</p>
Questions, Questions	<p>RE is all about questions. Younger children might use their own questions for God in this theme, while older students may create philosophical and critical art that explores varied answers to one big question. Can you make a painting that asks, explores and wrestles with ‘ultimate’ big questions? What does it mean to be human? What will happen after death? Who inspires us? What will give us courage to live and love? And what about the answers religions give? Older students could explore questions of both faith and doubt.</p>
Where is God?	<p>Atheists, agnostics and believers in God might all respond to this by expressing their sense of the search for God or finding God. Where’s God? In your heart, in prayer, in the temple or the universe? Or is she hiding? Is he not there at all? Looking for God, searching for him or her, matters: but how are we doing in finding God? Would you search with google or a ‘god-detector? By prayer or by looking among the world’s suffering people?</p>
Windows on the soul	<p>If you look in the window of your soul, what do you see? If you look out from the window of your soul, then what? This theme encourages pupils to dream and imagine the spirit and soul. If you could look through a window in your mind or soul into the ‘big beyond’ what will they see? Does the ‘window of the soul’ open in life, through music, by spiritual discipline, or only at death? Does the spirit or the soul even exist? Original work will go beyond a sunset seen through a window! What do the different religions teach in their scriptures about our spiritual side, our human nature, our souls?</p>
Mysteries of life!	<p>Out at the edge of knowledge, everything gets mysterious. What mysteries of life would you love to solve? This theme invites pupils to express their own ideas about the religious and spiritual puzzles, mysteries and imponderables of life. So much we don’t know, so much that inspires, so much that is mysterious ~ where to begin? Good work could explore the wonder and amazement of love, music, mountaineering or beauty. Or the awful mystery of suffering and the faces of evil. The best work is likely to use religious material about life’s mysteries as pupils explore their own ideas.</p>

RE network meetings - Spring 2019



Come and join us at an RE Network meeting. Chat to other subject leaders, find answers for RE problems and share ideas for creating quality RE in our schools. **Meetings run from 4-5 and are free of charge.** Join any convenient group. Try to let me know you are coming, for refreshment purposes. helen.matter@cofesuffolk.org.

*We will give you a **free RE Quality Mark framework** when you arrive! You do NOT have to do an REQM; we use the framework to help structure the meetings.*

Feb 26th	Mellis CE Primary, off A140 on way to Diss
March 7th	Discovery Centre, Cathedral, Bury St Eds
March 13th	Wilby (midway between Eye and Framlingham)
March 14th	St Mary's CE Primary, Hadleigh
March 19th	All Saints' CE Primary, Newmarket
March 21st	Gt Waldingfield CE VC Primary, nr Sudbury
March 26th	Eyke CE Primary, Eyke, nr Woodbridge

Inset for Spring Term 2019

Bookings for courses can be made on-line, where you will find additional details/ flyers. Day courses - £100 for subscribing schools /£200 for others. Half days are half those prices and twilights are less. 50% discount on additional course delegates.

<https://cpd.schoolschoice.org/courses/bookings/default.asp>

Further enquiries to our Education Administrator: Jacqui.studd@cofesuffolk.org

Staff meetings for groups of schools can also be booked for those beginning to use the Emmanuel Project for the first time, or who want to look at a specific area or phase of RE. Contact helen.matter@cofesuffolk.org for details.

16 Jan 1.30-4.30	RE for NQTs	Any NQTs / recently qualified teachers	St Nicholas Centre, Cutler St, Ipswich
24 Jan 9.30-12.30	Developing the Role of RE Subject Leaders Part 2	Optional follow-up to autumn course for new Subject leaders	Discovery Centre, Cathedral, Angel Hill, Bury St Eds
24 Jan 1.30-4.30	Is your Religious Education effective?	Church school RE leads preparing for SIAMS inspection	Discovery Centre, Cathedral, Angel Hill, Bury St Eds

26 April 9.30–12.00	Basics of RE	Heads and governors, new subject leaders	Trinity CEVA Primary School, Stowmarket
26 April 1.30-4.30	Basics of Collective Worship	Heads, Senior leaders, governors	Trinity CEVA Primary School, Stowmarket

A reminder! Is there any RE on your website?



Details of your curriculum have to be on the school website; this includes RE. SACRE has been taking a look to see what they can find. It is a mixed bag!



Congratulations to those of you who have ensured RE is up there with the other subjects or who have posted curriculum maps for each class which actually show what RE is being taught! We have even found pictures of outings, reports of speakers and details of RE days.

But not everywhere! A lot of schools seem to have forgotten RE. This is not a good idea as **RE is still a statutory part of the curriculum for all schools** (maintained, church, academy and free). Refer colleagues to OFSTED if they need convincing – RE subject leaders probably don't! And not only that it is a major contributor to many of the British Values and to SMSC.

Why not check your own website now? And have a look at a few others Can people find out what you are doing for RE?

Suffolk SACRE – RE Conference June 18th



The Standing Advisory Council for RE or SACRE is the county council body which offers advice to the LA on RE and Collective Worship, monitors school RE and CW provision, and oversees the development of a new Agreed Syllabus for RE. Its committees include teacher representatives and members of faith communities.

SACRE is planning to hold an **RE conference on June 18th**. Based this year at the Cathedral in Bury, it will be part of a wider arts festival and involve a number of practical workshops.

Please put the date in your diary. Details which will be out soon.

We also hope to launch **the new WIRE award** at the conference and have our first winners. See the next page.

Contact helen.matter@cofesuffolk.org – Helen is currently Chair of SACRE.



This is a free annual award which SACRE is about to launch for all schools which have been deliberately improving their RE provision and ensuring that it is broad and inclusive.

WIRE stands for '**Widening Inclusivity in RE**'. It is an award that can be earned by a class teacher, a year group leader or by the school as a whole.

The **initial** details of this are below. You could start gathering evidence now ready for when the full details of the award and how to apply are sent out to all schools.

It is FREE to take part. You only have to complete 4 activities but they must be done within the same academic year.

1.Someone from your school must **attend an RE conference/ course / Network meeting.**

2.Take a group of your pupils to **visit a place of worship** that is Christian and meet members of the Christian community which worships there

3.Take a group of your pupils to **visit a place of worship** that is **not** Christian

Or Arrange for pupils to welcome someone of a non-Christian faith to school as part of a series of lessons on that faith

4.Arrange an **RE event which includes aspects of more than one faith** and invite a member of SACRE to attend or submit a report on the event to SACRE

Or Enter a Competition to do with RE (such as 'Spirited Arts') and submit a brief report to SACRE about it.

More GREAT Resources for RE teaching:



Each term we give ideas to improve your teaching or knowledge of various faiths. It is worth checking previous DARE bulletins if you missed earlier editions:

CHRISTIANITY

Out of the 80 million Easter eggs sold in this part of the world every year, The Real Easter Egg is the only one which has an Easter story booklet in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and supports charitable projects.

This egg has been written into the 'Resurrection' unit for Upper KS2 in the Emmanuel Project RE scheme of work BUT its story is suitable for sharing in any RE scheme. A practical outworking of the Christian community wanting to share the story of Easter but also to challenge the secularisation of a Christian festival, support Fair Trade and raise money for charity.



Find out more here: <https://meaningfulchocolate.co.uk/pages/real-easter-egg>



ISLAM

We have had some issues with some Islamic websites being hacked recently and want to encourage everybody to take care. Please make sure your anti-virus software is up-to-date and report any issues you find.

JUDAISM

Some of you will cover Judaism. There is an amazing amount about this festival, including children to try.

I love this pyramid for hiding sides of the pyramid for facts about the story, beliefs and Seder.



Passover in a unit on amount on the internet many crafts for Jewish

the Mazzot; it uses the and some extended writing customs of the Passover



BUDDHISM

Some teachers have loved the origami lotus flower challenge in the Emmanuel Project 'Enlightenment' unit. For children who have good fine motor skills and lots of determination, how about an origami Buddha. Find lots of examples on the internet.