



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of St Edmundsbury
and Ipswich

D~A~R~E bulletin

Diocesan Adviser's RE bulletin Summer 2020

Welcome

This is the last DARE bulletin for the academic year and what a year it turned out to be. Who could have imagined that schools would be closed to most children for such a length of time? I know it has been a testing time for many of us and that you have had to work both hard and creatively in school. I do hope that you will be able to have a proper break over the next few weeks.

On behalf of all the children and families you serve, thank you very much.

Gemma Kingston, Diocesan Schools' Adviser

To contact me:

gemma.kingston@cofesuffolk.org

St Nicholas Centre, 4, Cutler St, Ipswich IP1 1UQ / 07394 568404

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

Guidance for full opening of schools - Updates on implications for teachers of RE



NATRE have produced a one page document which outlines implications for teachers of RE after the most recent government guidance on school reopening. This advice has also been endorsed by the Church of England

education office. The key points they have identified in relation to RE are:

1. Where the breadth of curriculum is specified at primary, RE is specifically listed as a subject that must be part of a broad curriculum.
2. To 'catch up' schools are advised to prioritise the most important components for progression within each subject. So, while that may influence the breadth of RE, it should not mean RE is dropped from the curriculum

For further advice contact: gemma.kingston@cofesuffolk.org

3. Schools are allowed to make some short-term modification to the curriculum at the start of the Autumn term but the aim is for all to be all back to normal as soon as possible and by the summer term at the latest.
4. If a geographical area goes into lockdown some subjects can be suspended and this may put RE at risk in some schools.
5. The DfE advise that educational visits that do not involve overnight stays can resume in the Autumn term with the usual risk assessment. Our interpretation of this is that visits can therefore take place to places of worship, museums, galleries etc. but extra care should be taken to ensure that social distancing and the regular use of sanitizers is part of the school's risk assessment. This will include ensuring that the place visited has robust procedures in place.
6. Schools should carefully consider how to manage visitors to the school for educational purposes and ensure guidance on physical distancing and hygiene is explained to them on or before arrival.
7. Ofsted will not carry out school inspections until January, but through the Autumn term 'collaborative discussions, taking into account the curriculum and remote education expectations' in a sample of schools will take place. This will not result in a judgement of the school although a brief letter will be published after the visit.



Full document: <https://www.natre.org.uk/uploads/Guidance%20for%20full%20opening-schools%20NATRE%20FINAL.pdf>

Is the RE on your school website compliant with statutory requirements?

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/what-maintained-schools-must-publish-online#curriculum>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/what-academies-free-schools-and-colleges-should-publish-online#curriculum>

The above websites lay out the following requirement for RE:

For further advice contact: gemma.kingston@cofesuffolk.org

Curriculum

You must publish:

- the content of your school curriculum in each academic year for every subject, including Religious Education even if it is taught as part of another subject or subjects, or is called something else
- the names of any phonics or reading schemes you're using in key stage 1
- a list of the courses available to pupils at key stage 4, including GCSEs
- how parents or other members of the public can find out more about the curriculum your school is following

To help you with this requirement I have produced a document which outlines the content of each RE unit (if using the Emmanuel Project) by year group for you to upload to your school website. <https://www.cofesuffolk.org/schools/school-leaders/religious-education/>

Christianity			Judaism	Hinduism	Islam
Religion and the Individual	Symbols and Religious Expression	Beliefs in Action in the World	Symbols and Religious Expression	Religion and the Individual	Religion and the Individual
 <p>Y3 How do Christians show that reconciliation with God and others is important?</p>	 <p>Y3 Is the cross a symbol of love, sacrifice or commitment for Christians?</p>	 <p>Y3 What do Christians mean when they talk about the Kingdom of God?</p>	 <p>Y3 What symbols and stories help Jewish people remember their covenant with God?</p>	 <p>Y3 Why do Hindus want to collect good karma?</p>	 <p>Y3 How does a Muslim show their submission and obedience to Allah?</p>
Christians ask God to forgive their sins and act as peacemakers, as Jesus did.	The cross is an important symbol for God's love and is a sign of commitment as well as sacrifice.	Christians believe Jesus is their King and want to follow his way of life.	Covenant – Pupils explore in greater depth the Exodus story and stories which demonstrate a covenant with God.	Karma – Pupils encounter Hinduism for the first time. They learn about how the idea of good and bad karma influences Hindus and the importance of selfless kindness.	Submission – Pupils learn about the importance of prayer as a way of submitting to Allah and acknowledging his greatness.

The East of England Faiths Agency (EEFA)

Please be aware that due to Covid-19 EEFA are suspending their organising of faith speakers into schools and places of worship indefinitely. There is some hope that it may be possible to create a new support service for the teaching about faiths in schools after the pandemic ends, but for the foreseeable future EEFA will only provide help to schools and other institutions through its web site (www.eefa.net) by

For further advice contact: gemma.kingston@cofesuffolk.org

suggesting useful resources and links which might be of use in the teaching about faiths.

SIAMS strand 7 advice for church school RE leaders

Advice for Church school subject leaders on understanding the RE strand of the SIAMS schedule is now available on the website

<https://www.cofesuffolk.org/schools/school-leaders/religious-education/re-resources/>

SIAMS for RE Subject Leaders

What do I need to know to understand the expectations of strand 7?

Good RE should contribute to an education which enables all to flourish.

How does your school vision affect the way RE is seen and understood? Can you articulate how RE expresses the school vision within your setting? The Christian vision of a school needs to thread its way through all subjects and other aspects of school life. RE is just an example of one area in which it should be reflected.

In this strand the following must be explored:

- How effective the school is in ensuring pupils flourish through the provision of high quality religious education reflecting the Church of England Statement of Entitlement.
- How effective the school is in ensuring that religious education expresses the school's Christian vision.

In developing effective religious education, a school must evaluate the extent to which:

- Through effective curriculum planning, RE provision reflects the Church of England Statement of Entitlement, or Methodist equivalent, develops religious literacy and meets statutory obligations.
- How well does RE help pupils to know about and understand Christianity as a living world faith

through the exploration of core theological concepts using an approach that critically engages with text?
How well does RE help pupils consider the impact and connection that Christianity has on Britain's cultural heritage and the lives of people worldwide?

- How well does RE enable all pupils to develop knowledge and understanding of other major world religions and world views and their impact on society and culture?
- How well does RE give pupils a safe space to critically reflect on their own religious, spiritual and/or philosophical convictions?

Do teachers share effective practice locally and regionally and engage in professional development? Does RE have in place rigorous systems of assessment?

How effective is RE teaching and learning in the school?

Theological concepts lay at the heart of the Emmanuel Project scheme of work. Religious text is included in explore 1.

How do pupils in your school view Christianity? Do they know the significant impact in the past on our culture today, and that for millions it is a living faith?

How high is the quality of your RE? How familiar are you with the *Church of England Statement of Entitlement*? It is an important document for RE subject leads. Find the most recent 2019 version here:
<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2019-02/RE%20Statement%20of%20Entitlement%20for%20Church%20Schools.pdf> Stick as closely as you can to this document when writing a RE policy.

Religious Literacy is the aim of RE teaching.
Do you know your statutory obligations?

Note the phrasing of 'all pupils' – this will include vulnerable groups the identity of which will influence the outcome of your inspection.

All Church of England schools are inspected by SIAMS, but only VA schools and former VA Academies have the effectiveness of teaching and learning inspected. The effectiveness of RE in VC schools will form part of your inspection report, but you will not receive a separate grade as in VA schools.

Coming soon....

Finally, I wanted to make you aware of upcoming documents which will hopefully be of some use and support going forward in September.

- **Knowledge Organisers**

KOs to accompany the Emmanuel Project 2020 are currently in progress. I aim to have these with you as a FREE resource starting with those for the autumn term.

- **Church school leaders RE handbook**

For further advice contact: gemma.kingston@cofesuffolk.org

A handbook to answer hopefully many questions new subject leaders ask including RE and the law, SIAMS, assessment and recording.

- **Parental Guidance for the Emmanuel Project**

A quick tool for answering enquiries regarding the approach and content of the Emmanuel Project.

Hopefully these resources shall be available from September free on the website.