



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SUBJECT LEADERS' NEWSLETTER

For Primary, Secondary & Special Schools
January 2022

Introduction

Dear Colleagues,

Happy New Year!

I do hope that you had a wonderful Christmas and managed to get plenty of rest after such a very long and stressful term.

I felt extremely lucky to get a few days in Norfolk this year (cancelled from last year). The sea air and long, deserted country walks always seem to refresh and revive me. It doesn't matter how wet or windswept you get it just soothes the soul.

I really hope this year sees things a little calmer for you all with time to revive the soul.

Welcome to the latest RE Newsletter for teachers of RE and RE Subject Leaders. It will update you on what is going on in the world of RE and direct you to useful resources and training opportunities.

Last term we were fortunate to have the 'Understanding Christianity' and 'New to Church Schools' training face-to-face and it was so lovely to see those people who attended. This term again has some face-to-face training but we will continue the training via Zoom for other courses and where it is beneficial to do so.

Please let me know if you have any RE News to share, including REQM awards (I no longer get any notification of REQM Awards).

I wish you all a safe, happy and healthy term and look forward to seeing you soon.

Kindest wishes,
Lesley

Lesley Pollard

RE and Collective Worship Adviser - Diocese of Peterborough

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CPD Opportunities

Dates for your Diary		
Course	Date and Time	Venue
"Prevent Awareness" (For DSLs and DDSLs)	Tuesday 18 th January 2022 9.30am - 12.30pm	Via Zoom
"Implementing Understanding Christianity:" (A course for Primary RE teachers who are new to UC but the school is using the resource)	Tuesday 25 th January 2022 9.30am - 3.30pm	Via Zoom
"RE: Retrieval/Ofsted Research Review" (For Primary RE Subject Leads and teachers of RE)	Thursday 27 th January 2022 1.00pm - 4.00pm	Lat Blaylock
"New to DSL in Northamptonshire" (For newly appointed DSLs in the county)	Tuesday 8 th February 2022 9.30am - 3.30pm	Via Zoom
"Ideas for great learning and progress in RE: Sikhs and Sikhi" Led by Lat Blaylock (For Teachers of RE at KS1 and KS2)	Thursday 10 th February 2022 1.00pm - 4.00pm	Via Zoom
"New to RE Subject Leadership in Church Schools" (For newly appointed Primary RE Subject Leads) <i>This is a 2-day course. Participants must attend both days.</i>	Tuesday 1 st March 2022 9.30am - 3.30pm	Hayfield Cross CE Primary School Hayfield Crescent, Kettering, NN15 5FJ
"Focus on Creation and Fall" Led by Adam Robertson (For Teachers of RE at KS1 and KS2)	Tuesday 8 th March 2022 9.00am - 12noon	Via Zoom
"RE Network Meeting - Understanding Christianity: Where are we now? Sharing ideas and good practice" (For those who have completed the 3 day UC Programme)	Tuesday 29 th March 2022 3.45pm - 5.45pm	Via Zoom
"Focus on Incarnation" Led by Adam Robertson (For Teachers of RE at KS1 and KS2)	Wednesday 30 th March 2022 1.00pm - 4.00pm	Via Zoom

For further details, costs and bookings please go to the website:

<http://www.peterborough-diocese.org.uk/news-and-events/events?tags=school>

or contact Alex on 01604 887060 or e-mailing: education@peterborough-diocese.org.uk

National Association of Teachers of RE Courses

For all NATRE courses go to:

<http://www.natre.org.uk/> and click on "Courses and Events".

Local RE News

Clare Pickering, Assistant Headteacher at Trinity CE Primary School, was concerned that some Knowledge Organisers for other subjects in the curriculum seem to be very 'wordy' and she tried to think about how to present one for the UKS2 unit, 'People of God: How can following God bring freedom and justice?' She also wanted to present it in a more visual way. The result can be seen as an attachment with this newsletter. Many thanks for sharing this with us, Clare.

National News

Religion and Worldviews

In summer 2021, Culham St Gabriel's Trust commissioned research through Savanta to understand more about public perception of an education in religion and worldviews.

Nearly two thirds (64%) of the UK adult population think that an education in religion and worldviews (or RE) is an important part of the school curriculum today with a further 65% agreeing that the subject has an impact on people's ability to understand each other in wider society. The research, conducted among 2,000 adults and commissioned by Culham St Gabriel's Trust, also found that 71% of UK adults agree that the subject should reflect the diversity of backgrounds and beliefs in the UK today.

Seven out of ten people surveyed also agreed that RE's role is to provide pupils with the opportunity to learn more about other people, beliefs, worldviews and cultures (73%), to foster the mutual understanding of different beliefs among young people (71%), and encourage them to openly discuss their beliefs with others (69%).

A further two thirds agreed that the subject's role is to help young people critically evaluate their own beliefs (65%) as well as the beliefs of others (65%).

The key findings of the research include:

- Around two-thirds of UK adults say it's important to understand the beliefs of others:
 - In everyday life (69%)
 - In relationships with friends and family (65%)
 - In school (65%)
 - In local communities (64%)
 - In the workplace (61%).
- Two-thirds (64%) of UK adults think that an understanding of their own beliefs is important to them, while over half (57%) agree that this understanding has a positive impact on their wellbeing.
- Nearly two-thirds (64%) of the UK adult population think that it is important that RE is part of the school curriculum today.
- Two-thirds (65%) of respondents agree that RE has an impact on people's ability to understand each other in wider society.
- 71% stated that RE should reflect the diversity of backgrounds and beliefs in the UK today.
- On the subject of religious education, respondents agreed that its role is:
 - To help young people gain a better understanding of their own beliefs (69%)
 - To foster the mutual understanding of different beliefs among young people (71%)
 - To provide young people with the opportunity to learn more about other people, beliefs, worldviews, and cultures (73%)
 - To encourage young people to openly discuss their beliefs with others (69%)
 - To help young people critically evaluate their own beliefs (65%)
 - To help young people critically evaluate the beliefs of others (65%).

For further information and a useful infographic (as below) go to:



https://www.cstg.org.uk/activities/campaigns/public-perception/?utm_source=emailmarketing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=october_midterm_update_2022_&utm_content=2021-12-13

Resources

RE:QUEST

This is a website that I have promoted since its inception many years ago. Recently Nick Brompton, Head of Castor CE Primary School, reminded me of its value and I have therefore included further details here.

"RE:QUEST is the 'go-to' site for relevant and engaging resources on Christianity. The site attracts over 1 million students and around 13,000 teachers annually.

Features include:

A newly installed accessibility feature which is designed to help SEND pupils and teachers.

There is also a new 'Boards' section, where you can organise curriculum resources in one place on any given topic. Once created, you can return to them again and again. A great feature of this section is the ability to create 'learning boards,' collating resources on specific topics, before sending pupils/students a link which enables access to them.

All of the curriculum-focused resources are created by practising Christians and, as such, reflect the true nature of the Christian faith. New resources are added almost every week.

The best part? It's completely free!

Please let RE:QUEST know if you have suggestions for resources you would like to see added. Contact: bev.smith@yfc.co.uk

The website is: <https://request.org.uk/>

TRUETUBE

TrueTube was relaunched on 10th December. It now has a much improved search function, so that you can navigate over 600 films far more easily and discover hidden gems relevant to you. There are also clearer options for downloading films. There will be further resources in 2022

Have a look at the 'How-To Video', showing you all the features and giving you the chance to make the most of TrueTube.

<https://www.truetube.co.uk/>

G2G - Holocaust

G2G (Generation to Generation) provide speakers who will visit schools (virtually if required) to talk about their families' experience of The Holocaust.

This is a really good way of accessing Holocaust witness voices for schools. Go to their website to find out more:

<https://www.generation2generation.org.uk/>

Walk Through the Bible

New, improved resources are now available and they still won't cost a penny. Have a look at: <https://www.bible.org.uk/index.php>

The Old Testament (OT) mini video series have been very popular and they were used to teach the Big Picture of the Old Testament to over 50,000 children during the 2020 - 2021 Academic Year!

The New Testament (NT) mini videos are now available and, just like the OT ones, can be requested via the website.

For improved written evidence there is also a new OT Mini Activity Book.

For a complimentary copy, please send your contact details to

karen@Bible.org.uk. If you have any requests or suggestions for the NT Activity Book - which will launch in Sept 2022 - the team at 'Walk Through the Bible' would love to hear from you.

Belonging and Believing

Independent RE Adviser, Gill Vaisey, has brought out a new set of Worldviews books for infant age pupils, featuring families reflecting; Buddhism, Christianity, Hindu Dharma, Sikhi, Judaism, Báhá'í faith, Islam and Humanism. These books explore the lived experience of families from these eight worldviews. The introduction of the new EYFS Framework for England, (September 2021) emphasises the place of religious education with explicit reference to 'religious communities' within the ELG - People, Culture and Community. The September 2020 Development Matters document reiterates the importance of enabling children to understand and appreciate the significance of religion and worldviews within our society. The Commission on RE Report (2018) states that "in an increasingly diverse society, understanding religious and non-religious worldviews has never been more essential than it is now." This is all great news for the education of our children and supporting them to live in an ever increasing diverse and plural world. So, Books at Press has published this set of beautifully produced hardback books for learners of all ages. Each book focuses on a five-year-old child within the family and includes simple text and full page photographs to illustrate aspects of the child's and family's everyday life. For more information, go to:

<https://www.booksatpress.co.uk/>

Artefacts

I have had several enquiries about where to purchase artefacts for RE.

Have a look at:

<https://www.tts-group.co.uk/primary/re/> They have a range of artefacts, storytelling boxes etc.

<https://www.wildgoose.education/re> They have recently bought 'Starbeck RE' so a lot of interesting things here.

<https://www.hope-education.co.uk/search?phrase=RE>

Hope have books and artefact boxes available.

Collective Worship

For anyone looking for a Collective Worship resource, check out Simply Collective Worship as a way of using engaging and enriching assemblies and thoughts for the day. Resources such as a project based on designing an airport faith and belief room, are particularly captivating for use in the classroom. Go to:

<https://simplycollectiveworship.co.uk/about-us>



Sharing Good Practice

This term the 'Good Practice' write up comes to us from Sandy Ettridge, herself an experienced RE Lead, who is working as a Diocesan Schools Consultant alongside Stanion Primary School. She tells us:

"I have been working with the school on a project linked to 'The Lord's Prayer' and I have enjoyed working with Reverend Heather Lowe and the Ethos Committee of the school. Together we planned a creative project to add depth and meaning to the children's understanding of 'The Lord's Prayer'.

I have written up the project, and on a recent visit to the school the Headteacher and I talked to some children about the lasting impact of the work within school and as part of their daily Collective Worship. I hope that you enjoy the account".

At Stanion Church of England Primary School the whole school and wider community have come together to create a visual and meaningful version of 'The Lord's Prayer'.

The newly-established Ethos Committee has representation from all stakeholders, and also includes the vicar, Reverend Heather Lowe. Everyone agreed that 'The Lord's Prayer' is an important part of daily Collective Worship and it was felt that we could help our children to deepen their understanding of each part of this prayer, ensuring that it is relevant and meaningful to all of the children.

Reverend Heather has been delighted to welcome the children back into the church building and she planned a range of prayer stations within the church for each age group. The children were so engaged and impressed all the adults with the depth of their responses and understanding.



At each prayer station the children could consider a line of 'The Lord's Prayer' in active and meaningful ways, to ensure that they would then understand the meaning behind the words rather than just recite them.

In the photograph, the children are considering the line, 'Give us this day our daily bread'. The activity for the children was to eat a piece of bread and, whilst doing this, to thank God (or be thankful) for their food and for everything which makes their life good. They were also asked to consider other types of sustenance and support that God provides to Christian lives.

As part of the line, 'Forgive us our sins', the children watched a tablet 'disappear' in the liquid to remind us that when we say sorry and someone forgives us we are forgiven. It's all finished and we can have a brand new start. The children also wrote some of the things that they felt they have done wrong, and these were then shredded- again to show that are sins can be forgiven and we can start again. They wrote onto green paper, and these shredded pieces were taken back to school to use on our own display.



As they considered the line 'Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven', the children had the opportunity to think about ways in which we can help to make life on earth as good as it is in heaven.

They showed such depth in their responses, and showed understanding of the need to care for one another, to show love for each other and to look after and respect our wonderful planet.

Back at school, the whole community came together again to add further impact to the prayer activities that had taken place in the church. The Ethos Committee worked together to plan visual and creative activities for each year group, with each of the classes considering a section of The Lord's Prayer in depth. The children had the opportunity to build on the work in the church and consider their own section of the prayer, with the opportunity for all year groups to explain the meaning and relevance of their section in shared Collective Worship at the end of the day.

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME

The children thought about how Christians believe God cares for each of them as a father, and that we are all unique and special to God, as He is to Christians. They decorated their own names to confirm how unique and special we are.

YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE, ON EARTH AS IN HEAVEN

Our children considered the importance of caring for one another. The school's vision of Love came through strongly within this activity, with all talking about the importance of looking after one another and showing love and care for all. They created hearts for the shared display as part of this activity.

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD, AND FORGIVE US OUR SINS, AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO SIN AGAINST US.

The children built on the activity in church where they had shredded the things that they felt they had done wrong. We used the shredded paper to create the trees in our display, to show that we can learn and grow from our mistakes. The children also thought of positive responses to their mistakes, and actions that we can take to show that we care. They displayed these on flowers around the trees.



LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL.
FOR THE KINGDOM, THE POWER, THE GLORY ARE YOURS, NOW AND FOREVER.

The children discussed the importance of trying to do the right thing—even if it is not always easy! We put a few temptations in their path during the afternoon, and we were proud that everyone tried to do the right thing. They also thought carefully about the values that should be central to any kingdom, and their responses showed recognition that a good kingdom is not built on wealth and power but on core values. Here, the children made links to the core values of their own school:



At the end of the afternoon, all of the classes came together to share their unique responses to 'The Lord's Prayer'. The children confidently shared the work that they had completed during the afternoon, and made links to the prayer stations that they had experienced in church earlier that week.

After school, the wider community came together again to combine all the reflections, recorded work and creative responses from the children. The display was created that evening, providing such a visual impact of the importance and meaning of 'The Lord's Prayer', adding depth to every act of Collective Worship.



The work has had real impact at every level. It has brought the whole school and the wider community together, with involvement from every child, all staff, parents and the Ethos Committee. It has re-ignited the positive, influential relationship that the school has with the Church, and all have appreciated the chance to work together after the restrictions of Covid.

Comments from governors and parents have reflected the positive impact of the work at every level:

"It felt like a really special afternoon with so much effort and energy from everyone- and such positive responses from the children."

"The children absolutely loved doing the prayer stations at the church. It was a lovely day- thank you, Heather."

"The display looks amazing. It will add depth and meaning to every time we say 'The Lord's Prayer'."

Reverend Heather is delighted to see such a vibrant display, and feels so happy to have worked so closely with the school:

"I have absolutely loved the last few days in church and school. The children were fantastic on both occasions and the work looks fabulous. The display looks so vibrant and alive, which is exactly how The Lord's Prayer should look- too often it looks dusty and dull and grey. I'm sure that God is loving it and that it is making him smile."

Mr Jones, Head Teacher, is extremely proud of the children for all their work and the contributions they shared.

"The children and staff have thoroughly enjoyed thinking about The Lord's Prayer and reflecting on what it means to us all. The activities in church and school supported the children in understanding the meaning of the prayer. Our wonderful display takes pride of place in the school hall and the children enjoy looking at their work."

The impact on the children is summed up by their responses

"The activity in church helped me by sharing something I have done wrong and it enabled me to move on."

"We looked at temptation in school and I resisted temptations that evening at home. Our school display is important as it shows us what everyone can do and shares our talents."

"I liked having a deeper insight about what the words of The Lord's Prayer mean to me. It stays with me and I think about it often. The activity in school was fun and meaningful as it helped me to remember that God loves us all. The display helps us by bringing us all together as a proverbial family. We recite the prayer and it helps us understand there is faith in everybody and that God is with us all of the time."

The Chair of Governors of the school has summed up the impact:

"A truly inspirational morning in the Church for the children culminated in a wonderful display, depicting The Lord's Prayer. The 'Our Father' has come alive for our children and they now pray with a deeper understanding of the true meaning of the words and petitions."

The work on 'The Lord's Prayer' has shown that the vision of Stanion School is at the heart of the whole school community:
"Love the lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind".

Thank you Sandy and Wayne for sharing the journey of this fantastic project. What an amazing time was had by those involved. Wow!!