



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Diocese of St Edmundsbury
and Ipswich

D~A~R~E bulletin

Diocesan Adviser's RE bulletin Spring 2 2020

Welcome to my second bulletin.

There was a lot I had intended to write here which just doesn't seem relevant right now as we find ourselves in these unprecedented times and all get used to working in different ways. For those of you still in school serving our children and parents, you have my upmost respect and admiration so thank you for what you continue to do every day.

I am working from home and still available to advise on RE or other church schools matters, so do drop me an email at gemma.kingston@cofesuffolk.org if there is anything I can assist you with. It has been a busy term with the release of the new Emmanuel Project 2020 edition. Thank you to those who have sent in positive feedback. We are still able to make the new edition available to you online as we are not currently posting. Email Jacqui.studd@cofesuffolk.org for more information.

Until we meet again, keep safe and well.

Gemma

Gemma Kingston, Diocesan Schools' Adviser

The Emmanuel Project 2020 AVAILABLE NOW!

This edition includes some significant amendments, additions and improvements including:

- NEW 'Assessing RE in your school' section in all units to replace levels



- NEW end of unit and end of year assessment materials for all units including quick quizzes based in blooms taxonomy and Solo Taxonomy hexagons
- NEW Evaluate sections in all units to reflect the assessment changes
- NEW 'Before you start' pages in all units to reflect a wider use across the country as well as maintain a link with the Suffolk syllabus
- NEW 'Explore' sections in KS1 Christianity and all EYFS units which have been split into the three sections used in all the other units with some new material added and the rest reworked to fit the new structure
- NEW content in EYFS and KS1 where units now have 'letters' from e.g. Tom and Tessa to help teachers deliver the religious content in a more child-friendly way
- NEW stories from other world religions included in EYFS units
- NEW 'Teacher Handbook' outlining content and progression for each phase and religion
- NEW weblinks in every unit, with all previous links having been checked and updated!
- **The resource is provided on a memory stick and costs £250.00 + £2.00 p&p to new buyers / £100.00 + £2.00 p&p to those who bought the previous edition.**

Please note there are now example units available

online at: <https://www.cofesuffolk.org/resources/re-resources>

Resources for RE support through the coronavirus crisis



RE Today, in partnership with NATRE, have produced a series of free, quality-assured online resources to support parents and their children with the provision of RE activities for use during the coronavirus crisis. These resources are available for anyone to access at:

www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/free-resources-for-you-and-your-pupils/

These include seven resources for each Key Stage including home learning activities about Easter, Bible stories and other festivals.

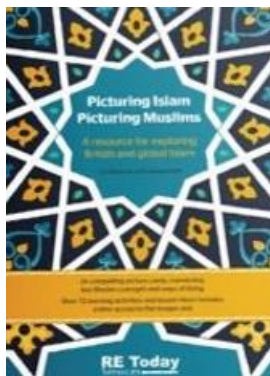


Barnabas in Schools have produced Easter activities and an activity on the use of food banks during the pandemic freely available at <https://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/topics/re-home>

New Resources

Picturing Islam, Picturing Muslims from RE Today £45.00

The much-anticipated sequel to Picturing Christianity has now been launched.

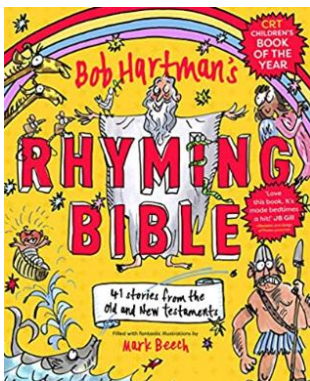


Explore the wonders of this religion through visual learning. A collection of outstanding images and artworks used to introduce key concepts for understanding Islamic theology. This resource provides great lesson ideas and includes a teaching handbook.

Bob Hartman's Rhyming Bible

Moses said to Pharaoh, 'Let my people go.' But Pharaoh said to Moses, 'NO! NO! NO!'

Author of the bestselling Lion Storyteller Bible and The Bible App for Kids, internationally renowned storyteller Bob Hartman retells over 40 classic Bible stories in rhyme. A great resource for schools.



From Esther to Samuel, Zacchaeus to Daniel, join in the rhyming fun with all your favourite characters and see the

Bible come alive in Mark Beech's fantastic illustrations.

A SNAKE in the GRASS

So God said to **Adam** and God said to **Eve**.

'Here's a garden that you can call home.
A beautiful, paradise place called Eden,
Where you can just, wander and roam.'

'Eat what you like, pluck fruit from each branch,
Except for the **Knowledge Tree**.
For that one will show you both evil and good,
And, sadly, you'll have to leave.'

So Adam and Eve stayed away from that tree,
And did all that God said they should.
They walked and they talked with him every day,
And life was incredibly good.

Then, one day, the serpent stopped by for a chat,
A clever and **LYING BEAST**.

'Take a bite from the Knowledge Tree's fruit' he said,
'I hear it makes quite a nice feast.'

'God told us we'd die if we ate it,' Eve said.
'What's God know?' the serpent replied.
'He's scared it will make you as clever as him.
Just trust me, you're not gonna die.'

Eve trusted the serpent, and did what he said.
She took one big **fateful BITE**.
And Adam did too, and that's when they knew
That things were no longer right.

'**You're naked,**' Eve cried. 'Yeah, you're naked, too!'
Cried Adam, 'Quick, grab some plants!
And fashioned from fig leaves, first-fruit of the loom,
A couple of pairs of pants.'

When God came to call in the cool of the day,
Eve and Adam **ducked** into the trees.
When God called their names, they **tumbled** and said,
'We're hiding, we're naked, you see.'

'Who said you were naked?' God sighed, 'Yes I see.
You've eaten the fruit from that tree.'

'**It's her fault!**' said Adam, pointing at Eve.
'It's the serpent!' she cried. **NOT ME!**

Foundation Stage RE

I have updated guidance on teaching RE in EYFS. This includes advice for professionals on teaching abstract ideas to young children. This is available at:

<https://www.cofesuffolk.org/religious-education/re-support>

What can young children gain from RE?

Taken from 'Firm Foundations - Exploring Christianity at Foundation Level' by Margaret Cooling and Penny Kite



Are Foundation stage children too young to do RE?

When teaching RE at foundation stage teachers sometimes feel confused because the messages they get seem to conflict. For example:

- Theories about how children's thinking develops (religious or otherwise) makes teachers wary of tackling abstract subjects with young children, and God is seen as an abstract idea.
- But research suggests children are thinking about deep questions from an early age, even those from non-religious backgrounds. Many children have their concept of God formed by the age of six.
- The beauty of the world and the challenge of suffering stimulates some children's thinking about God. Avoiding religious issues does not stop children thinking about them. The world presents children with joys, sorrows, mysteries, and experiences that they puzzle over.
- Pupils often lack the language and ways of thinking to handle big ideas.
- Research seems to suggest that early childhood is a time when deep spiritual experiences often happen.

Can young children understand abstract ideas such as God?

Abstract ideas are things that cannot be seen or touched. John M. Hull, in his book 'God Talk with Young Children,' suggests it is a mistake to think that young children cannot understand these types of ideas at all. They have some degree of understanding of and other things seen, such as concrete experiences or stories, children understand them. The problem lies with abstract ideas that are not embedded in things children can relate to, such as experience or stories.



Although God cannot be touched, heard or seen, God may be no more abstract to a young child than a long dead great grandparent about whom stories are told. Children also form their concept of God by generalizing from stories, celebrations and situations. We can over emphasize the abstract. Many of the images of God used in the Bible are 'concrete' rather than abstract: friend, king and shepherd. God is also seen in 'concrete' form in Jesus.

Some things that make RE easier for young children

Children can handle more if what they are being asked to think about is well within their experience. The following may help

RE advice for church school leaders

I have been busy putting together some advice for Church school subject leaders on understanding the RE strand in the SIAMS schedule. I aim to make this available on

the website within the next week or contact me for a draft copy as I would appreciate any feedback.

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.

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?

VA ONLY

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 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.

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.

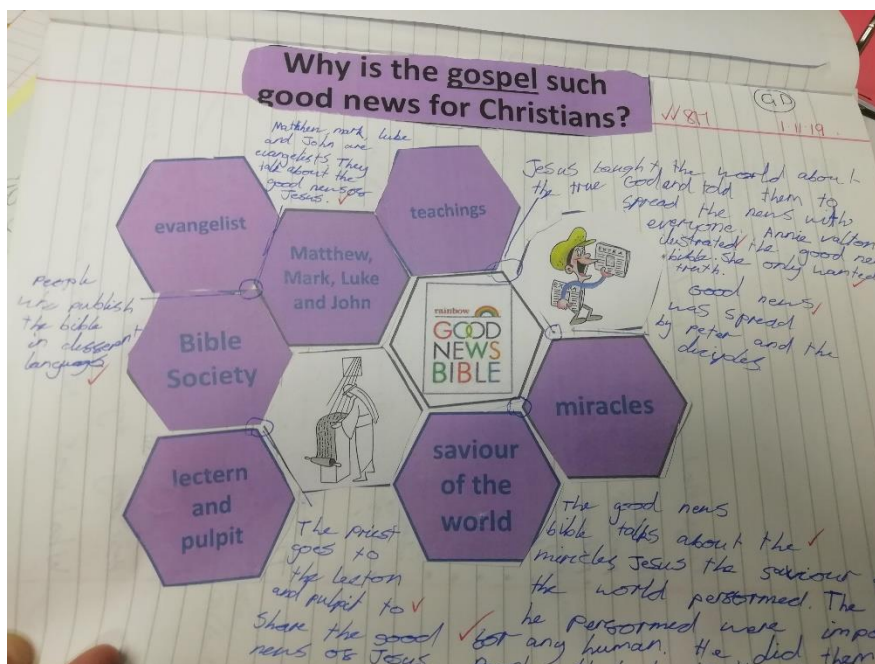
Religious Literacy is the aim of RE teaching. Do you know your statutory obligations?

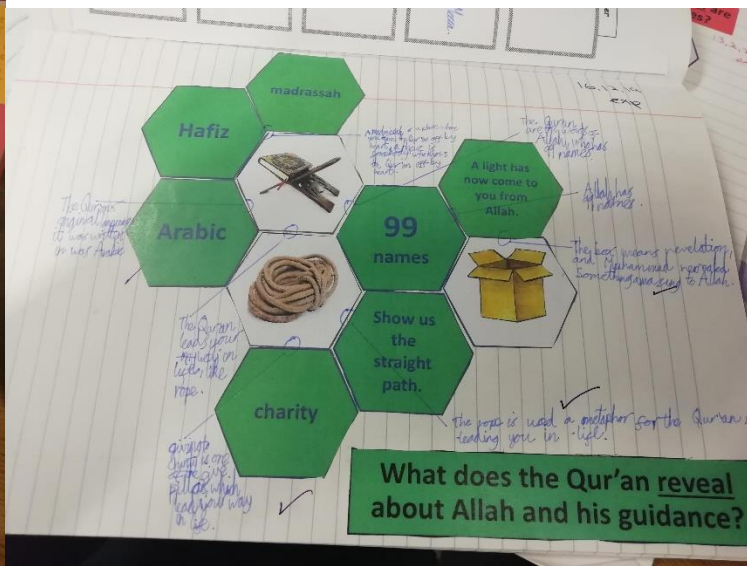
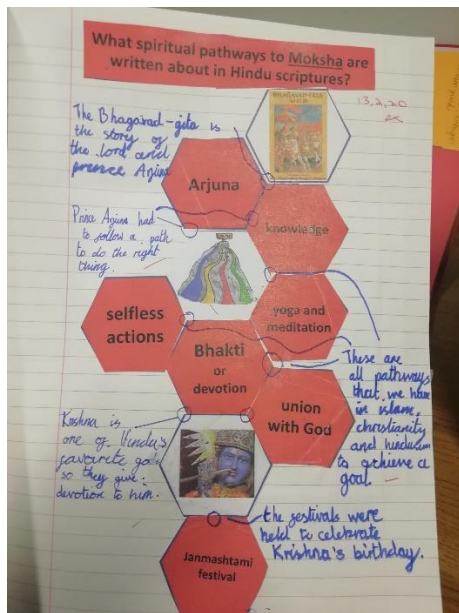
Note the phrasing of 'all pupils' - this will include vulnerable groups the identity of which will influence the outcome of your inspection.

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.

Assessment trialling

The 2020 EP edition comes with new assessment materials including quick quizzes and end of year expectations. Also each unit has a solo taxonomy tool. Have a look at how Siobhan from Great Finborough has been using these as an assessment tool for her Key Stage two class to give indications of how much each child has grasped the key question:





Inset for Summer Term 2020

The Basics in RE and Collective Worship courses due to take place on (date) will go ahead, but virtually. If this is successful, we will aim to deliver more planned training virtually next term.

RE conference



REXChange 2020, Saturday 3rd October, Birmingham

This conference is a new venture for the RE Community. The primary aim of the conference is to help teachers to engage with and in research.

It is suitable for all primary and secondary teachers, members of SACRE, local advisers and so on. For more information and to book:

<https://www.cstg.org.uk/programmes/rexchange/>

The cost has been kept to the minimum so is only £30 per delegate. Please promote this event with all your local groups and contact. Help us spread the word!

RE online



ResearchforRE

Research for RE is a research website which brings together teachers with research reports. There are over 1000 users. Are you one of them? Could you showcase the website with local groups? Help teachers to see how they can use research in their classroom.

<https://www.cstg.org.uk/programmes/research-for-re/>

<https://researchforre.reonline.org.uk>



Teach:RE Courses

The Teach:RE courses have had a makeover. The Primary Introduction course is now FREE. These courses are designed to support teachers in all stages of their career with modules ranging from subject knowledge to policy to curriculum to research. www.teachre.co.uk