

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

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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

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

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

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/what-maintained-schools-must-publishonline#curriculum

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/what-academies-free-schools-andcolleges-should-publish-online#curriculum

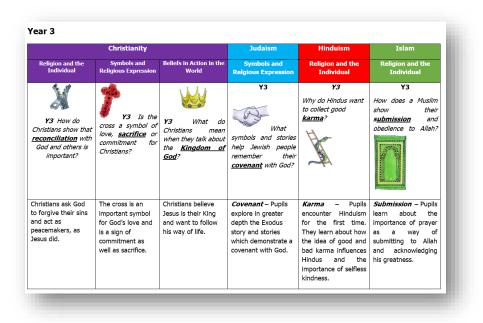
The above websites lay out the following requirement for RE:

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

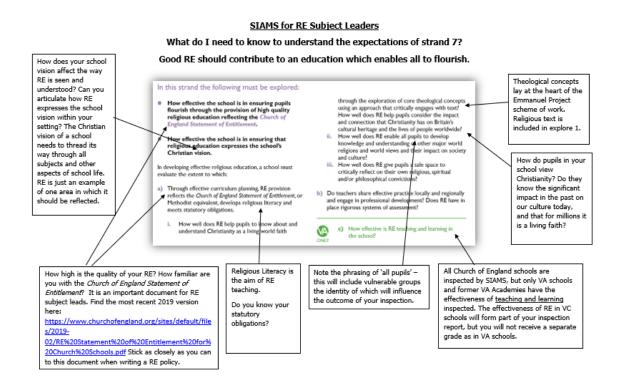


The East of England Faiths Agency (EEFA)

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 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/



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

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.