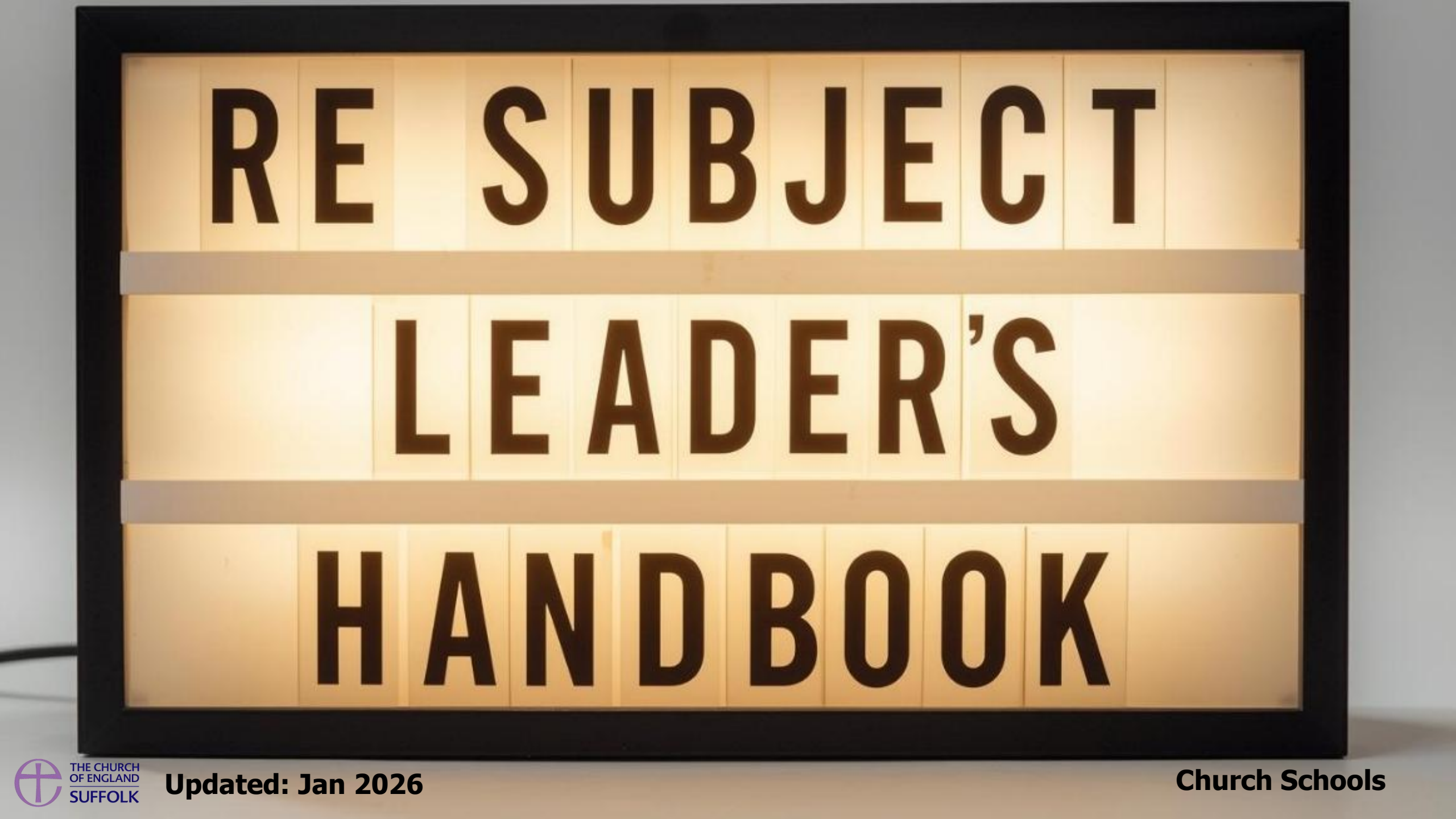


THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND SUFFOLK

Updated: Jan 2026

Church Schools



Thank you for all you do as RE leader in your school.

I am here to help and support as you navigate through the world of RE. Do contact me with any queries

Rachel Cutts, Diocesan Schools' Adviser

Rachel.Cutts@cofesuffolk.org

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Where do I stand? (2023) is the agreed syllabus for Suffolk. It is a legal document and provides a framework for teaching RE.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND EDUCATION OFFICE

Religious Education in Church of England Schools

A Statement of Entitlement

The Statement of Entitlement for RE in Church Schools (2019) states the aims and objectives of the subject.

All RE leaders need to have a good understanding of this and ensure that RE in your school fulfils the aims and expectations.

Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools

National Society for Education

Ensure you are familiar with the current SIAMS Framework, particularly the inspection questions relating to RE.



Your role is to lead RE well…

and to do all you can to ensure there is excellence in this subject across your school.

Top Tips

As with all subjects, leading RE is ultimately about standards. You want to ensure your curriculum is effective and your teachers are skilled at delivering it.

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Strong leadership will look like:

Pupils

- Improving knowledge, understanding and religious literacy skills
- Well prepared for tasks, tests and/or examinations in RE.
- Enthusiasm for RE, understanding relevance.
- Make meaningful contributions, express own opinions, engage respectfully with those whose beliefs differ.

Staff

- Enthusiasm for RE, understanding relevance and work collaboratively to support the aims of RE
- Dedication to improving standards in RE.
- High expectations for pupils
- Use guidance, training and support to enhance knowledge and develop expertise.
- Effective use of resources.
- Informed of RE updates and action plans.

Parents/carers

- Informed about aims of RE.
- Show interest in their child's learning in RE.

Senior Leaders

- Understand legal requirements for RE and role it plays in education.
- Ensure all pupils receive their RE entitlement and that staff are well resourced and trained.
- Make well informed decisions about RE and work collaboratively to monitor RE.

RE and the Law



All schools have a statutory obligation to teach Religious Education.

Schools must provide RE for all pupils in full time education, including:

- Reception classes (but not pupils in nurseries/playgroups),
- School sixth forms (but not sixth form colleges)
- SEND schools, where pupils must receive RE as far as is practicable.

Schools must:

✓ Publish RE curriculum details by year group on their website.

✓ Provide an annual report to parents/carers giving brief details of progress and achievements in all subjects, including RE.

Even though it is not in the National Curriculum, RE is part of the basic educational entitlement for all pupils.

RE is to be delivered…		
In VC schools: **In accordance with the Locally Agreed Syllabus.**	**In VA schools:** **In accordance with the school's trust deeds.**	**In Academies:** **In accordance with the academy funding agreement.**

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The Right to be Withdrawn from RE



Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of the RE curriculum. This right exists for all pupils in all schools and parents/carers do not need to provide an explanation. Pupils can only be withdrawn from RE, not from other curriculum areas where discussions may occur about religion, e.g. religious art.

Teachers have the right to withdraw from the teaching of RE unless they were specifically employed to teach RE or work in a VA school. A letter requesting withdrawal from teaching RE must be submitted to the headteacher and chair of governors. The school must still make provisions for the pupils to receive their entitlement to RE.

Students aged 18 or over have the right to withdraw themselves from RE.

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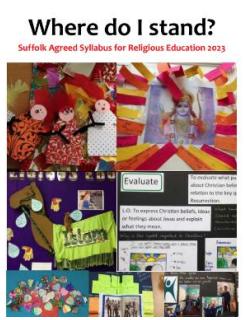
Further information available here.

Curriculum

THE EMMANUEL PROJECT

The Emmanuel Project is a complete set of 51 enquiry units from EYFS to Year 6.

Most schools choose to use the Emmanuel Project to fulfil the requirements of the Suffolk Syllabus.



Includes enquiries that explore concepts in Buddhism, Christianity, Hindu dharma, Humanism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhi.

All plans and additional resources are available online: www.emmanuelproject.org.uk

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As leader, make sure you:

- ✓ Have a good understanding of your school's long-term plan (LTP). Which enquiry units are taught in each class?
- ✓ In Church schools, 50% of RE learning should have a Christianity focus, this works out as three enquiry units for each class per year. Is that shown on the LTP?
- ✓ Does the LTP fulfil the requirements of the syllabus?
- ✓ Does learning in classes match the LTP?



Recording and Sharing Learning

All schools must publish:

- the content of the curriculum in each academic year for every subject, including mandatory subjects such as religious education (RE) – this applies even if it is taught as part of another subject or known by another name
- information to make parents and carers aware they have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of RE
- how parents, carers or other members of the public can find out more about the curriculum

It is also **best practice** to publish information about:

- The aims of RE
- How RE is organised and how the curriculum is delivered
- Your RE Policy
- How RE in your school meets the Statement of Entitlement.
- Syllabus followed,
- Additional resources
- Photographs to showcase excellent RE.
- RE Learning records available at open/parent's evenings.

It is for each school to decide which **method of recording** is most appropriate. You could choose individual pupil books, a class book, online records or a mix! Whichever method you choose, it should be a complete record of teaching and learning. Records should:

- Be clear as to the RE being taught.
- Show a journey through the enquiry unit
- Demonstrate how the key question has been answered.
- Contain relevant and labelled pictures and photographs.
- Be owned, shared and reviewed as a class.
- Be of a high standard.

Top Tips

Remember that evidence in RE doesn't always have to be written!

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How should we monitor RE?

Lesson visits

Work scrutiny – records of learning

Learning walks – look at displays

Pupil voice – what do they know, how do they make links, are they getting better at RE? How do they build knowledge over time?

Collaborative reviews – with SLT, Governors, Diocese

Staff surveys

Data – outcomes, progress, standards

Top Tips

Working with Governors:

- ✓ Make sure they understand the legal requirements and implications for RE.
- ✓ Involve them in your subject monitoring.
- ✓ Point them towards Diocesan training.
- ✓ Invite them to be involved in any RE theme days and/or visits.
- ✓ Ask a named governor to ensure that RE is regularly discussed at whole governor meetings.
- ✓ Report to governors and inform them of any changes.

Enriching RE: Visiting places of worship or inviting visitors to school

As RE leader, you could plan a selection of visits and visitors for each class across the year.

Wherever you choose to visit, or whoever you choose to invite in to school, be clear that the purpose is educational: it's an opportunity for pupils to observe or listen, not to take part. Teachers should be aware that activities where pupils would be required to participate would not be appropriate.

Padlet





If a parental request is made for a pupil to be withdrawn from a visit to a place of worship, or from a session with a visitor, alternative provision must be made available at school.

Top Tips

VISITORS: Working alongside the class teacher, ideally you would meet a visitor beforehand. Ensure they are briefed on: purpose of visit, age of pupils, time allocated and school safeguarding procedures. Remember that no individual can represent every perspective within a worldview so it is best to describe them as a member of a particular community, rather than the representative. Over time, aim to include a variety of voices so pupils experience diversity within a worldview.

VISIT TO A PLACE OF WORSHIP: A pre-visit is always advised to risk assess and meet members of the community. On the pre-visit, find out expectations around: Dress code, what pupils can and cannot do, whether food will be offered (consider how this will be managed in accordance with your school policies), any formal greetings and whether an act of worship will be happening during the visit.

Statutory Inspection of Anglican & Methodist Schools
National Society for Education

RE may be inspected in any school.

In Church schools, a denominational inspection of RE is part of a SIAMS inspection.

SIAMS explore how a school's theologically rooted Christian vision drives its work and enables the school to live up to its foundation as a Church school. It looks at the impact of the vision by seeking to answer seven Inspection Questions.

The two questions that relate to RE are:

IQ6: Is the RE curriculum effective (with reference to the expectations set out in the Statement of Entitlement)?

IQ7: What is the quality of RE?
(IQ7 is just for VA schools, academies that were previously VA or academies that were previously VC where denominational RE is taught).

You can expect questions such as:
Does RE have a high profile in your school?
Do arrangements for RE meet statutory requirements?
Tell me about the RE curriculum.
Is priority given to staff expertise and CPD in RE?
What is the level of resourcing for RE?

You can find your school's latest SIAMS report on our website.

Be prepared to show evidence to answer these questions – and to focus on the **IMPACT** of the decisions you have made as RE leader.

If you'd like support in preparing for SIAMS, do get in touch.

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Resources for RE Teachers

For articles, curriculum, support materials, subject knowledge, videos, images, artefacts and more.

NATRE National Association of Teachers of Religious Education

RETODAY Educate • Equip • Empower

RE Teaching resources

Religion Media Centre

tts40

RE:ONLINE BY CULHAM ST GABRIEL'S

TRUE TUBE Free award-winning resources for RE, PSHE and Citizenship

TEACH:RE TO ENTHUSE. TO EDUCATE. TO INSPIRE.

REonDemand Bringing RE to Life

BBC BITESIZE

THE EMMANUEL PROJECT

REQM RE Quality Mark



Books at Press

:Padlet

SUFFOLK SACRE

RE HUBS

THE ELIZABETH WALTER CHARITY Supporting Christian Learning in Ipswich

Supported by The Jerusalem Trust

CULHAM ST GABRIEL'S CHAMPIONING RELIGION AND WORLDVIEWS EDUCATION

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CPD and Ongoing Support

The Diocesan Education Team run training courses, information sessions and termly networks for RE leaders. We have a half-termly newsletter and an online Subject Leader Update in June where we share all the latest news and resources from the wider RE world. We can also provide bespoke support for new RE leaders.

We train teaching staff through online sessions. One of most popular courses is our New to Teaching RE course, for anyone who is new to teaching RE in Suffolk. We can also visit to lead an RE staff meeting in your school.

Subject knowledge can be developed through our Padlets.

A free session is available for Governors to help them to understand the aims of RE and how it is taught in Suffolk.

We can also visit you at school to help with RE monitoring and action planning.



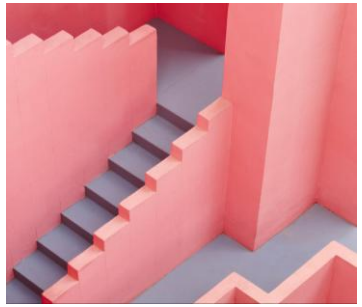
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RE and Collective Worship
Training and Development courses
in church schools spring summer 2026
Please click on course title for more information or visit
https://www.cofesuffolk.org/schools/school-leaders/training-opportunities/

Religious Education/Collective Worship	
Bible Course (8 part course) 3.45 - 5.15pm via Zoom • Session 1 - Thursday 15 January • Session 2 -Thursday 22 January • Session 3 -Thursday 29 January • Session 4 - Thursday 5 February • Session 5 - Thursday 12 February • Session 6 - Thursday 26 February • Session 7 - Thursday 5 March • Session 8 - Thursday 12 March	For Heads and governors. Whether you are new to the Bible or have read it for years, this eight part course is designed to help you make sense of it all - from Genesis to Revelation. Delivered by Revd Laura Mumford, Diocesan Growing Younger Enabler and Jane Sheat, Diocesan Director of Education. **Deadline for bookings: 15 December 2025** Free.
New to Teaching RE 9.30am – 12.00pm via Zoom • Wednesday 21 January 2026 • Thursday 16 April 2026	Suitable for ECTs, RQTs, HLTAs, experienced teachers and anyone needing a refresher on teaching RE £60 subscribing schools/£120 other schools
RE statement of entitlement update 4.00 – 4.30pm via Zoom • Tuesday 3 February 2026	Short online information session on the new RE statement of entitlement Free

More information about the courses we run can be found here.

Next Steps



- Make sure you understand the **aims** of RE**,** the **law** around RE. Keep informed about RE at a national level.
- Ensure that RE has a **high profile** in your school and is treated as a core subject.
- Look at your **curriculum** - does it fit the requirements of the 2023 Suffolk syllabus?
- Check your school **website** - does it include everything that it needs to?
- How is RE **recorded** and how are pupil's voices captured?
- How is the subject **assessed** and how are assessments recorded? Is it a suitable method? Could there be an alternative method for assessing? Are pupils progressing?
- **Monitor** the subject – work collaboratively alongside a governor.
- **Talk** about RE – are attitudes towards RE positive? How confident are staff with their subject knowledge? When was the last time they accessed training?
- Look at **learning** - in lessons, in books - what are standards like? Are all pupils able to flourish in the subject? What provision is in place for pupils with SEND?



- Are there any gaps in **resources**? What would be most useful in terms of artefacts?
- Consider enriching RE – through a **theme day** (invite parents!) and visits/visitors.
- **Communicate** with SLT, Governors and staff about what best practice in RE looks like.
- Create an **action plan** with three actions. Think about what you want to develop. Give yourself a realistic timeframe. Your RE action plan can form part of the school's SIAMS Self-Evaluation Form.
- **Stay connected** with the Diocesan Education Team and attend training/networks.

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