



Summer 2009  
Primary

# R.E. NEWSLETTER

## Special points of interest:

- Primary Review
- Ely 900
- Primary Network Meetings

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## Cambridgeshire Advisory Service

To: RE Subject Leaders

### The Primary Review and the impact upon RE

See [www.dcsf.gov.uk/primarycurriculumreview](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/primarycurriculumreview)

'High Quality subject teaching must not disappear from primary schools" says Sir Jim Rose, who has lead an independent review of the primary curriculum. This applies to RE.

In the media there have been various headlines that have suggested that some subjects are going to merge under six new areas of learning in the attempt to slim down the curriculum. This has been interpreted as losing some subjects from the curriculum. For a time humanities subjects such as History and Religious Education were targeted. This reporting was inaccurate. Rose proposes creating six new areas of learning but also envisages existing subjects being taught under different areas of learning but in flexible ways.

The purpose of the Review is to

advise ministers of changes that need to be made. These include easing the transition from early years into primary schools to sharpen the focus on mathematics and English to give teachers more flexibility to design and deliver a local curriculum.

The final report was recently published and can be downloaded from the DCSF website:

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/primarycurriculumreview/>

There will follow a short time (May – July 2009) for formal consultation.

Rose comments that the existing division of the National Curriculum into "core" and "foundation" subjects has sometimes lead to lower quality teaching and superficial coverage of subject areas outside the "core". At time of writing, QCA are drafting proposals for how the knowledge, skills and understanding teaching of subjects will be re-organised and are likely to reduce the amount of prescribed content. As

Rose recommends “schools should protect time when learning is best served by teaching subject content “discretely and systematically.” To some more experienced teachers, the areas of learning might sound like a return to the topic work prevalent in primary schools prior to the introduction of the National Curriculum in 1988. However Rose clearly states “The review is certainly not advocating a return to the vagaries of old style topic and project work”.

It is very important that all who are interested in the future of RE look at what is being said about the place of RE on the curriculum and ensure that its place is firmly stated. Some concern has been raised following the introduction of the new Secondary Curriculum last Sept 2008 that some Headteachers have used the opportunity to marginalize RE or subsume it with other subjects. Because of this happening, there is no way teachers can competently fulfil the legal requirements of the locally determined Agreed Syllabus. This must not happen to RE in the primary phase.

However, I am not saying that everything about RE should stay the same. I think the Review presents a marvellous opportunity to make links between subjects, links with learning and enhance the common skills across the curriculum. RE should be part of it. The new primary curriculum is intended for introduction in 2011. The interim Review represents just the start of a long journey of potential change that could be affected by the results of a general election.

### **Community Cohesion**

In the climate of times where global citizenship is one of QCA’s strategies, as is the duty for schools to promote community cohesion, Religious Education can make a significant contribution. Good RE helps young people to critically question beliefs, belief systems and values to help formulate their own, and learn to respect and understand people of faith and no faith. This is another reason why RE must be taught.

**Peterborough Children’s Service Centre,  
Cromwell Road (formally the Multi-cultural  
Centre) - RE Resources Library**

Please use the resource centre. There is an excellent range of RE materials and boxes of artefacts that are available for any teachers in the primary sector in Peterborough and for surrounding schools in Cambridgeshire to use. Christine Buckler, the senior Primary Consultant is happy for the resources to be used and wants to see schools come and see what the centre has to offer. Just recently there have been some new boxes of materials on Hindu marriages. If you want to visit the library either make an appointment with the librarian Vika Joblonskyte (Tel. No 01733 864584) or come to the centre on Wednesday 3.30-5.00pm or Thursday 1.00pm-5.00pm when the library is open. It is a free resource.

### **The Primary Network Meeting at Peterborough**

At the primary network meeting on Thursday 29th April there were some excellent examples of assessment tasks demonstrated. Teachers are getting to grips with Assessment of AT1 and AT2. Thank you to all colleagues who brought work and shared their reasons for levels.

Thank you also for ideas about CPD for RE teachers. These include having a whole day on visiting places of worship in Peterborough, meeting with members of the faiths, to enhance subject knowledge and make links with the local communities. Please look out for details of the new courses and network meetings for 2009/10 on the RE Homepage. They will be published by half term of this term. Book on them as soon as possible through Lynne Perry at Cromwell Road Children’s services.

([lynne.perry@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:lynne.perry@peterborough.gov.uk) or tel. No. 01733 864583. All Peterborough Primary network meetings are to be held at Children’s Services at Cromwell Road at 3.45pm- 5.15pm.

### **Cambridgeshire Primary Network Meetings: Important announcement**

Following a request from colleagues at one of the Spring term network meetings, I have decided to cut down this term’s network meetings to 2, to encourage as many of you as possible to come to one of two meetings, to meet people from different faith backgrounds and build up your religious knowledge. It will be an opportunity to ask those questions that you would like to ask and think about how to tackle some difficult discussions that you may have

had. Please make the time to come and meet our visitors. There will be one meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> June at St John's Primary School, Huntingdon and the other will be on the 17<sup>th</sup> June at Fen Ditton Primary school on the edge of Cambridge city.

### **ELY 900 : Celebrating 900 years of the Diocese of ELY**

In 2009 the Diocese of Ely celebrates its 900th anniversary; this means that Ely Cathedral also celebrates 900 years as a cathedral (although the first church on this site was actually built in the seventh century). Why not take this opportunity to find out about educational visits to the Cathedral or how the Cathedral team could bring resources out to your pupils and your school? For more details contact Jan Munt, the Ely Cathedral Education Officer on Tel No 01353 659668, or e-mail [cathedral.education@ely.anglican.org](mailto:cathedral.education@ely.anglican.org) or look on the web site [www.elycathedral.org](http://www.elycathedral.org)

### **Sharing Resources**

I get really excited when colleagues share ideas and practice with me and are willing to share with others. I have long pleaded at network meetings, training courses and in newsletters for us all to share more our ideas and resources in this subject. So I am really grateful for two colleagues who have said they are happy to share materials and for you to use them how you see fit. At Huntingdon Primary School two colleagues have been trialing ways to assess RE that meet the requirements of the Agreed Syllabus and also incorporate different learning styles. Please see under the RE portal page heading resources details a pro forma that could be adapted to help you with assessment in RE. Secondly contact Mary Pye at Teversham C of E Aided School if you want to have some cracking ideas about delivering RE with attractive MS PowerPoints for all religions.

### **NATRE News**

Messages from NATRE (National Association of Teachers of Religious Education). Look on the web site [www.natre.org.uk](http://www.natre.org.uk) there are details of exciting resources and CPD events that you may be interested in. It is important that we continue to promote RE on the curriculum. There are now 4 new online videos which can

be downloaded from the website. One of them explores how skilful and creative Primary RE can help the personal development of children. Do look at the Spirited Art and Spirited Poetry competitions for this year. There are some excellent themes to develop the mind and thinking, encourage good quality RE, even if you do not want to enter into the competition. [www.natre.org.uk/spiritedarts](http://www.natre.org.uk/spiritedarts).

### **Look! Linking RE and the Literacy Strategy**

This term I am working with two Leading Literacy teachers and a Literacy consultant to create a new course and teaching materials to deliver literacy through RE. The aim is to try and raise the profile of RE in the curriculum. Having come to understand that APP (Assessing Pupil Progress) can be done through a range of subjects, not just the core subjects, I am very keen for RE to be linked with Literacy. This is in the spirit of the new Primary Review. Teachers have told me that they are allowed to go out of school for INSET and CPD to the core subject training but other areas are marginalized. By producing joint courses with the Literacy Team and RE there will be some exciting CPD plus innovative schemes of work produced to be used in the classroom.

Watch out for news of the progress made on these on the web site.

### **Learning Outside The Classroom**

One of the key foci this year and next will be on encouraging learning outside the classroom. Look at the web site [www.LOTC.org.uk](http://www.LOTC.org.uk) The vision for this strategy is " We believe that every young person should experience the world beyond the classroom as an essential part of learning and personal development, whatever their age, ability or circumstances." There are lots of case studies to look at for ideas linked to Religious Education.

### **New Resource: Buddhism online!**

At Clear Vision ([www.clear-vision.org](http://www.clear-vision.org)) they are passionate about getting young people to ask questions about the meaning and purpose of life. New this month is their first online, interactive product, **The Life of the Buddha interactive**, for KS2/3. Seven chapters contain questions, short illustrated story videos and

activities to be done on computer or elsewhere. (The videos are extracted from our best-selling DVD **Living Buddhism for KS3.**)

Are you still using a very old Clear Vision VHS cassette pack? The new, higher-quality DVD versions feature chapter points and handbooks in PDF on disk. Peel off an old video label, send with your order and we'll send you the replacement DVD at 40% discount. Original prices on website.

### **New Courses 2009-10**

There are a range of courses, some new and some repeats because of their success, as well as the on-going network meetings planned for next year. Please look at the brochure when it comes out to the school shortly. Also you will find details of the courses on the RE Home page. Book early, especially for the RE and Literacy courses as we expect a good response.

### **Summer Term 2009 RE Network Meetings**

Timings for both are 4.15 p.m. to 5.45 p.m.

**10/6/09** - St John's Primary School,  
PE29 7LA Code 18473

**17/6/09** - Fen Ditton Primary School,  
CB5 8SZ Code 18475

To book a place on the above or request further details, please phone 01480 375634 or e-mail [CAS@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:CAS@cambridgeshire.gov.uk).

### **Peterborough Courses**

#### **Learning outside the classroom -**

#### **Experimental Learning £50 per delegate**

19th May 2009 - 9.30 to 12.30pm at Children's Services, 165a Cromwell Rd, Peterborough, PE1 2EL

### **Philosophy for Children' (P4C) in Primary Schools £50 per delegate**

11 June 2009 - 1.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Children's Services, 165a Cromwell Rd, Peterborough, PE1 2EL

To book a place on either of the above courses or request further details, please phone 01733 864583 or e-mail [lynne.perry@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:lynne.perry@peterborough.gov.uk).

### **'Transforming Collective Worship' Hayward Theatre, The Gallery, Ely 26<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

This conference is for head teachers, governors, clergy and all those interested in collective worship. The programme includes Jan McFarlane, Archdeacon of Norwich, and Diocesan Communications Officer on Worship as Communication. **For further information, see Education Portal ID Ref. 4724**

### **ELY Diocese Primary Network Dates**

Wednesday 11th February - Thriplow School

Thursday 26th February - Gt Paxton School

Thursday 5th March - Teversham School

Wednesday 11th March - St Peter's Junior School, Wisbech

Wednesday 18th March - All Saints School, March

Thursday 19th March - Diocesan Office, Ely

Thursday 26th March - Linton Infants School

All commence at 4.15 p.m. and last approx. one hour.

***These are free INSET, but please contact Shirley Hall to let her know if you wish to attend - [shirley.hall@ely.anglican.org](mailto:shirley.hall@ely.anglican.org) or telephone 01353 652712.***

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[www.re.ccceducation.net](http://www.re.ccceducation.net)