**RE update: July 2020**

Dear RE leads,

I would like to begin by thanking you all for all you have been doing in your schools and for the many ways you have ensured that RE has continued to have a high-profile during lock down.

**The purpose of this brief is to give you a number of updates and things that need considering for September.**

**Courses 2020 – 2021:**



Please book now onto the following courses via the grow website: <https://grow-education.org/>

* **Leading RE in the primary school** for recently appointed leaders.  **22nd October.**
* **6-day course - Teaching high quality RE.**

This extended 6-day programme, ideally designed for one attendee, aims to support all those wanting to deepen their subject knowledge and skills in teaching RE. It will provide you with solid subject knowledge across the world faiths and ideas and strategies to use back in the classroom. Schools can also purchase a combination of days if preferred, giving you full flexibility in tailoring this programme to suit your specific needs.

I would encourage other teachers to attend this course rather than you as the RE lead unless you are very new to post. The reason being, it will strengthen the staff skill set across the school. Also, much of the material covered, I will address at the network meetings.

All courses will be delivered either online or back in the training room at Causton Street.

**RE network meetings:**



**These will follow the same format as this year:**

* One half day meeting in the Autumn and Summer term.
* One full day meeting in the Spring term.

I would **strongly** encourage you to prioritise these, because they will keep you updated with latest thinking in RE, allow you time to network with other RE leads across the diocese and to share and see good practice going on in other schools.

**Book now** (they get filled very quickly) via the LDBS website - <https://www.ldbs.co.uk/> -  tab 'courses' for the RE network meeting.

**Autumn term:**  Choice of two dates:   7th October or 20th October.  1.30 - 4.00pm.

The network meetings will be delivered either online or back in the training room at Causton Street.

**Staff CPD:**



Please refer to the link below for training material and supporting documents that you might find helpful in your role as RE lead.

<https://www.ldbs.co.uk/re-worship/re/training-ppt-and-supporting-documents/>

If you require further support with developing a CPD programme for your school or would like some external input, please speak with your school link adviser first.

**RE Syllabus:**



Some of the RE units are being reviewed and re-written. This is an on-going piece of work.

Completed units will be up on the website at the end of August ready for the Autumn term.

Those of you following the model map: Units that will have been re-written for the Autumn term are as follows:

* **Year 3:** What is the Bible’s ‘big story’ and what does it reveal about having faith in God?
* **Year 5:** What do the miracles of Jesus teach?
* **Year 6:** The journey of life and death.

**What should RE teaching and learning look like next year?**



**Further questions to consider when answering the above question:**

* What has the RE provision in your school looked like during lock down?
* How many children have engaged in RE home learning during lock down?
* Where does RE feature on your school’s timetable in the Autumn term taking into consideration that it is a core subject in a Church School?

**Filling the gaps in knowledge, understanding and skills in RE:**

* **Remember,** in terms of skills, they are revisited on more than one occasion so do not worry about this as children will return to them as they resume face to face teaching in the Autumn term.

**Filling the knowledge gaps:**

* My recommendation would be **to not** begin the Autumn term by completing the summer term units. My reason for this being that you will have the problem of constant ‘catch up.’

**However,** be aware that children will have missed out on some key knowledge, other ways this could be addressed:

**Option 1:**

Having two RE days set aside in the year, to teach the two units missed, aiming always for quality rather than quantity. I would encourage you to use the **assessment grids** to identify what it is the children need to have remembered and tweak the plan accordingly to address key knowledge.

**Option 2:**

Deliver **an RE day** for the other world faith unit if that is what you have on your curriculum map. This is essential to do, as the world faith only comes up once within the primary age range.

**Christianity units:**

**Deliver the knowledge at an appropriate time within the year, taking into consideration:**

* Where the topic might fit into other curriculum areas being covered.
* Where a link might be able to be made with English or PSHE.
* What key knowledge needs to be addressed from the units missed – it is essential that as leaders, you refer back to the assessment grids and identify only the knowledge that needs to be remembered.
* Where half a day might be able to be allocated to addressing the subject knowledge gap if a day is not available.

**If your school uses the model curriculum map, I would recommend that the following knowledge is taught:**

**Reception: Who cares for this special world: Key knowledge to be fed into the Year 1 curriculum at an appropriate time within the year.**

* The parable of the Talents
* The parable of the Good Samaritan
* A visit to the school church to look specifically at: What services are held in the church and how the church might be involved in caring for its local community and globally. What could the children do to contribute to one of these projects?

**Reception: How did Jesus rescue people: Key knowledge to be fed into the Year 1 curriculum at an appropriate time within the year.**

* To know what a miracle is - the ordinary being turned into the extraordinary because of God’s power.
* To know the story of Jesus calming the storm.
* To know the story of Zacchaeus.
* To know the story of the 10 lepers.
* To know the story of Jesus healing the blind beggar.
* To know the story of Jesus helping the disciples to fill their nets with fish.

**To note:** To be mindful that these parables and miracles may be addressed in Collective Worship in the course of the year, providing children with the knowledge that could then be followed up through a circle time to ensure understanding.

**Year 1:** Why is it good to listen to and remember the stories Jesus told? **Key knowledge to be fed into the Year 2 curriculum at an appropriate time within the year.**

* What is a parable?
* **To revisit:** The lost Sheep and The Good Samaritan - these were taught in Reception
* **To know:** The Prodigal Son, The Parable of the Sower, The Foolish Builder

**Year 2:** Why do Christians make promises before God? **Key knowledge to be fed into the Year 3 curriculum at an appropriate time within the year.**

* To know the meaning of the word ‘promise.’
* To know what Baptism is.
* To know the meaning of a Christian marriage.

**Year 3:** Who is Jesus? (I am statements)**Key knowledge to be fed into the Year 4 curriculum at an appropriate time within the year.**

**These sayings could be addressed one per half term explored through 2 circle times or a P4C lesson.**

* To know the ‘I am’ statements and their meaning to Christians
* To consider how the statements may be relevant and applied to their own lives

‘I am the bread of life’
**‘**I am the light of the world’
**‘**I am the good shepherd?
**‘**I am the true vine’
‘I am the resurrection and the life’

**Year 4**: Having reviewed the RE syllabus, the liturgy unit is going to be replaced with an additional world faith unit. I therefore would not recommend teaching this unit as part of the ‘catch’ up programme.

**However,** the teaching on the sacrament of Holy Communion is key knowledge that is required.

If the Year 4 Easter unit was covered then this sacrament has been taught. If it wasn’t, then two options are available for teaching in Year 5:

* Teach the Year 4 Easter unit

**Or**

Teach the sacrament of Holy Communion using the PPT on supporting liturgy and Holy Communion which can be found on the website: <https://www.ldbs.co.uk/re-worship/re/re-units-learning/> under the K.S 2 units of learning.

**Year 5:** Understanding Faith in……. **Key knowledge to be fed into the Year 6 curriculum at an appropriate time within the year.**

**Two key points I would address from this unit in the course of the year:**

* To know the faiths of our school, community and locality
* To know how faith has enriched the local community and borough

**These two objectives could be explored in the following way:**

* A day allocated to exploring faith in the community.
* Incorporated into a Geography unit related to the local area.

**RE resources:**

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Please refer to the link below for all resources.

<https://www.ldbs.co.uk/re-worship/re/re-resources-covid-19-pandemic/>

I wish you all a very happy summer holiday. Thank you to all those of you moving on, for all your contributions to RE this year – it really is very much appreciated.

Welcome to all of you who are new to leading RE in your schools. I look forward to meeting you in the coming year.

Thank you to all those of you who will continue to lead RE in your schools next year. I look forward to continuing to work with you,

Best wishes

Mary Thorne

Primary Adviser with responsibility for RE