

## Autumn Term 2021– First Edition!

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to this first edition of the RE Newsletter for Community Schools for this academic year. If you are new to the position of Subject Leader for RE or have been involved with this vital area of the curriculum for some time, then this resource is designed to support you in that particular role. I look forward to meeting you – online or even face to face! - and talking with you about the different aspects of your work. Remember that I am always here to offer you help, advice and support with RE (or Collective Worship). You may be:

- preparing teaching and learning
- reviewing and revising RE documentation such as schemes of learning and policy statements
- organising existing resources and/or selecting new ones
- developing your own subject knowledge.

I would be delighted to hear from you. Do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to make an online or telephone appointment!

Lesley Prior

## Adviser for RE in Community Schools

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- **LB Brent:** 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 19<sup>th</sup> May
- **LB Camden:** 27<sup>th</sup> January
- **LB Hammersmith & Fulham:** 30<sup>th</sup> November, 24<sup>th</sup> February
- **RB Kensington & Chelsea/City of Westminster:** 7<sup>th</sup> December, 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 16<sup>th</sup> June
- **LB Harrow:** 9<sup>th</sup> December, 15<sup>th</sup> March, 26<sup>th</sup> May
- **LB Hounslow:** 10<sup>th</sup> March, 7<sup>th</sup> June
- **RB Kingston/LB Richmond:** 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 10<sup>th</sup> May

In all likelihood, these will continue to take place virtually. Please contact me for more details or register online in the usual way.

## Dates of Future Primary RE Network Meetings 2021/22

# Interfaith Week and RE

As mentioned in the final newsletter of last academic year, **Interfaith Week** is from 14th-21st November 2021 and gives schools an ideal opportunity chance to focus on this theme in RE, as well as PSHE, RSHE and in Collective Worship.

- Link to Primary Resources: <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/learning-about-inter-faith-activity-a-primary-resource>
- Link to Secondary Resources: <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/inter-faith-activity-in-the-uk-a-teacher-resource-for-secondary-pupils>
- Golden Rule Resource <https://www.interfaith.org.uk/resources/shared-values-golden-rule>



## Free Online Resources for RE!

The **RE Matters** YouTube channel has plenty of films you can make use of in your RE at school:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCF1UluqebI4jOVUTAoyH-9A>

The **RE On-Line** website includes a wealth of material to help improve your subject knowledge, as well as giving lots of suggested activities, plans and other resources, all of which have been carefully selected by RE professionals: <https://www.reonline.org.uk/>

**NATRE** is the National Association for Teachers of RE and offers a range of free online information and teaching resources: <https://www.natre.org.uk/>

**RE Definitions** is a website providing information about key religious terms and includes an audio glossary to help teachers and learners to pronounce them correctly! <http://re-definitions.org.uk/>

**TrueTube** is a website featuring especially commissioned short films for use in RE and also includes lesson plans and activity ideas – much of it is more focused on the secondary phase, but the 'Charlie and Blue' series is designed to meet the needs of younger primary pupils: <https://www.truetube.co.uk/>

## The Shap Calendar of Religious Festivals

The 2021-2022 Wallchart and the eCalendar are now available from Shap! This is the best and most reliable calendar of this kind and an essential resource for any individual Subject Leader for RE as well as colleagues of all kinds across every school. Put one on the wall of your staffroom! It lasts until December 2022!

More details are available at: [www.shapworkingparty.org.uk](http://www.shapworkingparty.org.uk)

# Resources for Teaching About Catholic Christianity

The **Slipper Chapel Shop** is located within the Roman Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham in Norfolk. But you can visit the online version at: [www.walsingham.org.uk](http://www.walsingham.org.uk) - just scroll down the page to find the link! Here you can buy crosses, crucifixes, rosary beads and statues of Mary and other Saints. Books, candles and cards are also available!



# Resources for Teaching RE in the EYFS

The BBC News website recently featured a story about how members of some different faith communities have begun to manufacture and promote soft toys liked to their religions. These toys are primarily designed to ensure that children being brought up within those religions are made more aware of the stories and traditions associated with them, but may also be suitable for use in RE in community schools.

**PLEASE read the article before purchasing!**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-58925796>

**This raises some really important issues around the sensitivities of using these toys in schools and/or families!**

**Modi Toys** is based in the US and has sold over 40,000 of its products globally - including cuddly Krishnas, Ganeshas and Hanumans - since opening for business in 2018.

See: <https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/ModiToys> to purchase these within the UK.

**Plush Legion** sells a similar range of products with accompanying books and covers all of the major religious traditions, with some of the figures singing mantras or reciting prayers.

See: <https://www.plushlegion.com/> for more information.

# Holocaust Memorial Day

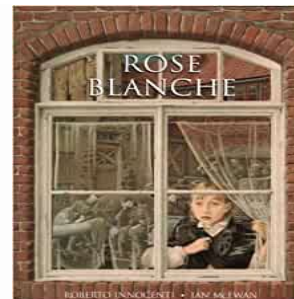
**Holocaust Memorial Day** (HMD) is on 27th January 2022, and there are lots of free resources online to help teachers plan lessons for pupils of all ages. Those for younger children are carefully designed to be age appropriate. The [HMD education guidelines](#) for teachers cover age appropriate ways to introduce and discuss the Holocaust and genocide in schools. These guidelines recommend that only children aged eight years or more should take part in your HMD activity.

The resources include:

- An HMD assembly for [primary schools](#)
- Creative activities such as the [Make a Memorial Flame Display](#) resource, using readily available and low cost materials
- More hands on resources include the [Traditional Rwandan dance tutorial](#), [recipe cards](#), and song sheets in the [creative activities](#) section
- [Easy to read life stories](#), which provide an accessible way for older primary pupils to understand the experiences of people affected by genocide.

You can find all the school materials at [www.hmd.org.uk/schools](http://www.hmd.org.uk/schools)

Contact the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust Education Officer today for help and support and to get started: [education@hmd.org.uk](mailto:education@hmd.org.uk)



## Faith Belief Forum

The [Faith and Belief Forum](#) is a London based interfaith charity working to build good relations between people of different faiths, beliefs and cultures in schools, universities and communities. It offers funding to deliver its School Linking Programme, supported by a free Online Resources package, **Skills for Dialogue**, across Greater London.

The [Schools Linking Programme](#) involves offer teachers free interfaith/intercultural CPD to deliver three link days across the academic year, either virtually or face to face, with a school from another area/faith/belief/culture. This programme is supported by access to our KS2 & KS3 Interfaith Online Resources, [Skills For Dialogue](#). These can be used by schools as stand-alone resources to support RE/PSHE/RSE/citizenship, or alongside other programmes to support learning.