

RE newsletter

Coronavirus Update Edition!

Welcome to my final newsletter of this academic year. I hope you are coping with the additional demands which are being made of teachers in these strange times! I am concerned to hear that, in some schools, RE is being left out of the curriculum offer. However, I am equally aware that many teachers are worried about overloading pupils and parents, who are often struggling to balance competing priorities in challenging home learning contexts. These are not easy positions to square.

This newsletter is designed to give you some suggestions for ways to engage pupils who are home-learning, while continuing to be sensitive to the needs of them and their families. It is worth considering how home-learning gives us an unprecedented opportunity to offer relevant, inclusive resources to parents who may not always have had a very positive view of RE.

RE and Black Lives Matter?



With the recent widespread activism and protest over the killing of George Floyd, many teachers of RE are wondering how this affects our approach to our subject. In her book [Religious Education and the Public Sphere](#), Pat Hannam argues that the aim of education is to 'bring the child to action'. Our RE should do more than just provide a passive reflection of religious and non-religious worldviews. We need to help pupils engage with ideas in an active context.

When Donald Trump used tear gas to clear protesters away from his path, so he could be pictured holding up a Bible outside a Church in Washington DC, he made a significant statement about religion and power. Watch [James Corden's interview](#) with his dad on '[how to hold a Bible](#)' to see some interesting critique of these events.

Here is an interesting [blog](#) about how RE can be crucial tool in helping to uncover the implicit and structural racisms which still oppress the majority of the world's populations. *'Put simply, much mainstream thinking around and about religion is colonialist and racist.'*

How can we use RE to show Black Lives Matter? Here is a useful KS3 SoW from Bristol SACRE on [Bristol and the Slave Trade](#)

June 2020

For RE support, please contact Ed Pawson at efpawson@gmail.com



Virtual CPD

I will be running two RE update 'meetings' on Zoom to talk about recent issues and developments in RE: knowledge organisers, home-learning, making knowledge 'stick' etc

RE updates for primary teachers

Religion and worldviews for primary teachers
4.00-5.15pm Tues 30th June

RE updates for secondary teachers

Religion and worldviews for secondary teachers
4.00-5.15pm Wed 1st July

Free and open to anyone. Please [email](#) me for the Zoom link and more detailed programme.

RE resources

Highly recommended lockdown lesson support:
Bristol SACRE continues to produce excellent (free) weekly [home-learning tasks](#)

NATRE

[Video clip resources](#) to aid independent learning
[Free NATRE resources](#) full of great materials

BBC resources for RE: [KS1](#) [KS2](#) [KS3](#)

Guidance on creating and using [Knowledge Organisers](#) in RE

Interesting blog on [planning a primary curriculum](#) (baby and bathwater)

Exploring the Holocaust at Home

The [Family Learning Pack](#) from Holocaust Education Trust is written for parents and carers to work through together with their children. Well presented information and great activities.

Please see the [April newsletter](#) for a more complete list of RE resources in lockdown

Remember to access the new Devon and Torbay [syllabus](#). Contact [Ed Pawson](#) for the password