

# RE newsletter

## The Blessing

What is a blessing? Why might you bless someone? Is it only God or religious people who can bless people? Can you bless yourself? Blessing isn't a word which young people tend to use very often, but I wonder what pupils think it means. Could pupils try to write a blessing of their own for their families or for the world?

[The Blessing](#) is a song written by American Christian songwriters and released in early 2020, just before the Covid-19 pandemic hit. Within weeks, as we went into lockdown, it had been performed and recorded by a group of 65 churches from all over the UK, going viral in May 2020, quickly reaching more than 2.5 million views. Since then, it has been performed by 10s of thousands of people in 257 different languages, all around the world.

Find a ppt [here](#) to do some focussed RE work on the Blessing, including ideas about why some (evangelical) Christians said the song gave a 'dangerously' misleading message!

## Knowledge in RE



In specifying the intent and implementation for your curriculum, it is important to consider what is meant by 'knowledge' in RE. The 2021 [Ofsted research review](#) identifies 3 types of knowledge in RE.

- Substantive knowledge:** having an understanding of different religious and non-religious traditions. *How do people express religion and non-religion in their lives?*
- Disciplinary knowledge** (ways of knowing) is about 'how to know' about religion and non-religion. *What tools and skills do pupils use and develop to explore the content?*
- Personal knowledge** is where pupils build an awareness of their own presuppositions and values about the beliefs and traditions they are studying. *Are pupils aware of the assumptions they bring to the RE classroom? Does RE give them a chance to reflect on their own worldview?*

In your planning, do you identify the different ways pupils can be 'knowledgeable' in RE?

You can find a brief outline of the **Ofsted RE research review** [here](#), along with an **Ofsted RE toolkit**.

## September 2022

For RE support, please contact Ed Pawson at [efpawson@gmail.com](mailto:efpawson@gmail.com) or [ed.pawson@exeter.anglican.org](mailto:ed.pawson@exeter.anglican.org)  
Church school contact: Tatiana Wilson at [tatiana.wilson@exeter.anglican.org](mailto:tatiana.wilson@exeter.anglican.org)



## Learn Teach Lead RE (LTLRE)



LTLRE hub (twilight) meetings are free and open to all teachers of RE, primary and secondary. See [LTLRE website](#) for full details.

**Torbay/S Devon hub:** Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> Nov

**Exeter hub:** Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> Oct

**Cornwall hub (primary):** Tues 15<sup>th</sup> Nov

**North Devon hub:** Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> Sept

### LTLRE Annual Conference

**Creating a connected curriculum in RE**

**Keynote: Richard Kueh (Ofsted lead for RE)**

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at St Mellion in person.**

£60 per delegate. Details [here](#). Booking [here](#)

See Page 4 for flyer

"We need a special kind of courage, not the kind needed in battle but a kind which makes us stand up for everything that we know is right, everything that is true and honest." Queen Elizabeth II, Christmas Broadcast, 25 December 1957

## RE hub leaders needed



Are you interested in developing your RE leadership skills? Why not find out about joining our great team of LTLRE Hub Leaders? Contact [Ed](#) for more details about hub leader vacancies.

## Courses from Exeter Diocese

Time	Date	Details	Cost
9.30-3.15pm	28 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Leading RE in the primary school (Exeter)	£90
9.30-3.30pm	11 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Understanding Christianity (Day 1, Exeter)	£120
4-5.15pm	15 <sup>th</sup> Nov	RE updates for CofE primary schools (online)	free
4-5.15pm	24 <sup>th</sup> Nov	RE updates for CofE secondary schools (online)	free

## Islam is a worldview, not a place!



I am often struck by the way some pupils find it hard to differentiate between the concepts of religion, culture, ethnicity, nationality etc. Do they understand that 'Islam' is not a place?! One way to learn about this is through a historical lens, exploring how a religion grew in a particular time and place. The BBC's resources on [Early Islamic Civilisation](#) for upper KS2 are helpful here.

## Hinduism factsheet



Here's a useful factsheet on [Hinduism](#) explaining that it is better understood as a family of traditions or a network of related beliefs and practices rather than a formal religion.

## Hinduism and Autism



There's a new film on TrueTube called: [Autism, Hinduism and me](#). Here Abi describes her day to day life, her autism, her love of languages, identifying as non-binary and why Hinduism works for her - excitingly, she gets to experience her first Diwali.

## Inclusive Judaism

[Inclusive Judaism](#), hosted by the London Jewish Museum, aims to increase understanding of the diversity within Judaism. You can access an extensive image library helping to build an authentic representation of what it means to be Jewish.

## Interfaith Week 2022



[Interfaith week 2022](#) takes place between 13-20 November. You can find educational activities [here](#). Use the list of Devon [religion and worldviews](#) visitors to find a member of a religion or belief group to speak at your school.

## Subject knowledge courses



Sign up [here](#) for RE Today subject knowledge courses for primary and secondary teachers of RE

## World religions map

This [short film](#) shows how the major five world religions developed and spread across the world.

## RE vocab progression

Does anyone have a vocabulary progression document for the RE Agreed Syllabus, which they would be prepared to share?

## Visits and visitors

As schools begin to open up a bit more this term (we hope), it might be good to enliven your RE by drawing on people to visit your classroom, or by taking your pupils to a place of worship or sacred space. You can find a list of local religion and worldviews visitors and visits [here](#).

## Black History Month



It's [Black History Month](#) in October, so here are some resources to link into RE:  
Do you teach about the [Bristol Bus Boycott](#) of 1963? It is interesting to note the way the Bristol Council of Churches reacted.  
What do you know about being [Black and Muslim](#) in Britain today?  
How many [black theologians](#) do you teach about?  
Have you accessed the anti-racist resources produced by NATRE for [primary](#) and [secondary](#) RE?  
There's due to be a film posted on [TrueTube](#) in late September for Black History Month.

## HMD 2023



Holocaust Memorial Day takes place on 27<sup>th</sup> Jan every year. The Theme for 2023 will be [Ordinary People](#). Holocaust Education Trust materials can be found [here](#). G2G resources [here](#). Resources for Devon schools [here](#).

## CofE schools

## SIAMS hubs

SIAMS Hub Meetings will be looking at collective worship. Booking [here](#) (don't worry if you can't attend the one in your area).

Wed 21<sup>st</sup> Sept

Exeter, East and North Devon

Thur 22<sup>nd</sup> Sept

Plymouth, Torbay, South and West Devon

## The Anglican Church and same-sex marriage

### Lambeth 2022: towards an acceptance of different attitudes about same-sex relationships

This summer has seen the [Lambeth Conference](#) (2022) taking place; an international meeting of Anglican bishops. On its agenda have been discussions about world affairs and the global mission of the Anglican Communion for the decade ahead.

Amongst other things, this years' conference will be remembered as a watershed when those in favour and those against same-sex relationships accepted they were not going to agree, but found [unity in the same Anglican Communion](#).

Over the past decade the issue of homosexuality and same sex relationships has caused continuing conflict amongst Christians across the worldwide Anglican union. At present churches in Canada, the United States, Brazil and Scotland allow same-sex marriage. Others are considering it. There were seven 'out' gay bishops at Lambeth, some of whom brought their spouses who were not formally invited.

But churches in the Global South — mainly Africa, South America and southeast Asia — are against, believing it to be against the teaching of the Bible. In many of those countries, homosexuality is a crime that carries a sentence of imprisonment or even death.

However, at this conference there seems to be mood change, towards an acceptance that scriptural reasoning leads to different conclusions and that it was not up to the Global North or Global South to dictate to one another.

**Sandi Toksvig invites the Archbishop for a coffee to [talk about same-sex marriage](#)**



Teachers of RE in all phases of education are invited to attend the 2022 Southwest Peninsular LTLRE 10<sup>th</sup> annual conference

# Creating a connected curriculum: learning and knowing in RE

## Keynote: **Richard Kueh**

HMI, Schools & Subject Lead (Religious Education)  
at Ofsted



## Workshops for primary and secondary RE to include:

- sequencing and planning in RE
- a worldviews approach to RE
- what I learnt from an Ofsted deep dive
- ways of knowing in RE
- worldviews in RE at EYFS
- new to leading RE in a primary school
- how to write like a philosopher, theologian ... (secondary)
- feedback from a GCSE examiner

**St Mellion, Saltash,  
Cornwall PL12 6SD** (near  
Plymouth)

9.15am – 3.15pm  
Friday 14<sup>th</sup> Oct 2022

Cost: £60

Deadline for bookings:  
12<sup>th</sup> October

Booking site: [here](#)

More info: [here](#)

This conference will explore why a connected curriculum in RE so important. We will share ideas about how to create learning structures in RE which can build pupils' knowledge about religion and worldviews, enabling them to develop a more coherent, connected conceptual understanding.