



Report by Gillian Georgiou - Diocese and Cathedral Religious Adviser

Diocesan Matters Update

My work has been largely taken up in recent weeks by meetings with colleagues on a vision for the future of RE. I have worked with a group of RE professionals – teachers (primary and secondary), ITE providers, independent consultants, Diocesan advisers as part of Culham St Gabriel's *Thinking and Doing* days, producing materials that can be used nationwide to encourage a wide audience to reflect on the current situation of RE and possible future changes and developments. I also sit on the National Society's RE Development Group, which has, amongst other things, been working on the launch of *The Christianity Project*, a series of materials developed in association with RE Today with a concept-based pedagogy that will enable teachers to deliver high-quality teaching of Christianity from Foundation Stage to KS3.

In addition to this, I continue to work with local schools on developing their RE. The training I have been asked to provide is becoming more focused on the RE Enquiry Framework and assessing progress in RE, as many schools consider how to make RE more compatible with the other curriculum planning they carry out. I am also increasingly being asked to provide training on the core concepts in a variety of religions including, but not limited to, Christianity.

I continue to produce a termly newsletter (the last edition went out just after half term) and run eight termly cluster meetings around the Diocese of Lincoln. During the autumn term cluster meetings, we discussed the Clarke/Woodhead report. It became clear that the teachers I spoke with were keen to have a national curriculum or framework for RE that set standardised core content and learning outcomes. They felt this would help resource teachers across the country so that RE is delivered with parity in different localities. They were also keen that the opportunity for parents to withdraw their children from RE was removed from the statute, particularly as they felt that parents were more often using this statute to *selectively* withdraw from the teaching of Islam only. Although there is no specific provision for selective withdrawal in the legislation, schools are confused as to whether parents should be allowed to selectively withdraw their children from RE.

In my role as the Cathedral Schools Officer, I have recently produced educational resource packs for primary, secondary and special schools in conjunction with the upcoming exhibition of the Methodist Modern Art Collection in Lincoln Cathedral. This is a collection of modern art with religious and spiritual significance and I intend to run tours and workshops for schools to help them explore the relationship between religion

and art. I would encourage members of SACRE to visit this exhibition if possible; it opens on the 12th February 2016.

Gillian Georgiou

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