

# Research 7 update

May 2020

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## **Background:**

- Research7 emerged from 2017 consultations: key research areas for RE over next 2-3 years
- 7 areas were identified, most projects funded via bids to CStG and the series began – different projects began at different points over 2018-2020

## **Area 1 Curriculum Design**

Richard Kueh, Inspiration Trust, March-September 2018

- Initial one-day forum for trust's RE leads followed by implementation of knowledge-rich curriculum in its academies
- Agreed document (curriculum statement) plus programme of study for Religion and Philosophy in KS3
- 20/20 and other conference presentations
- <https://www.reonline.org.uk/blog/a-knowledge-rich-curriculum-with-2020-vision/>

This was a small-scale project – in a recent CStG focus group teachers asked for more research on curriculum design

## **Area 2 Religious Literacy**

David Aldridge, Gert Biesta, Pat Hannam, Sean Whittle, September 2018 – March 2019

- Literature review, academic summit Jan-Feb 2019, teachers meeting Feb 2019
- Conference presentations e.g. AULRE 2019
- JBV article at <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13617672.2020.1736969>
- Original report at <https://www.reonline.org.uk/news/religious-literacy-a-way-forward-for-religious-education/>

## **Area 2 Religious Literacy (Innovative Spaces of RE for REAL)**

Adam Dinham, Martha Shaw, September 2019 – September 2020 (?)

- Developing case studies of the RE for REAL approach in 6 schools
- Video interviews with teachers and pupils, lessons also video-recorded, project film now in production
- House of Lords showcasing event was scheduled for July, may now need to be put back

**Area 3 Emergent technologies and RE Paul Hopkins**

**Area 4 Teachers and texts Bob Bowie**

## **Area 5 Children as scientific and religious researchers**

CStG decided against grants in this area. Instead, projects from the Templeton Big Questions in Classrooms series will be represented at the RExChange conference, e.g.

- Jo Pearce and Alexis Stones, What Distinctive Contribution Does Religious Education Make to the Development of Epistemic Literacy in relation to Big Questions in Religion and Science?
- Nigel Fancourt, Liam Guilfoyle, Argumentation in Science and Religious Education

## **Area 6 Educational disadvantage, social mobility and religious identity**

David Lundie, January 2019 – January 2020

- Project title adapted to Religious Education and Social Disadvantage in  
May 2019 – focus narrowed and clarified
- Survey data from 6 secondary schools in economically deprived areas analysed – pupil and parent views / experiences of RE's value
- Community of practice formed to investigate enhancing primary RE through out-of-classroom learning, in schools serving socially disadvantaged children
- Both data sets currently in articles under submission to journals (find out more at RExChange)

## **Area 7 RE teachers' engagement with research Vivienne Baumfield, Karen Walshe, September 2019 – September 2020**

- Mapping review: current knowledge on teachers' engagement with research (general) – completed / write-up in progress
- Focus groups x2- English & Welsh RE teachers – do the general findings from the mapping review affect RE specifically / how?
- Focus groups now changed to online interviews with individual teachers, scheduled for May and June

## **Area 7 RE teachers' engagement with research Emma Salter September 2019 – September 2020 (?)**

- 9 primary RE teachers working with 2 academics in a practitioner research community of practice
- Teachers as problem-solvers: academics support rather than instruct
- Case-studies of classroom / curricular interventions, reflective teacher-researcher journals – visits to faith communities, teaching about religious texts, arts-based approaches to RE, effective subject leadership and CPD, CORE implementation from headteacher perspective
- Community of practice staying in contact through virtual meetings, school-based work may now have to be picked back up in September and project time-scale extended

## Research7 **series** outputs

**1. ReXChange conference**, Birmingham, 3 October 2020. All projects (and others) represented, most by a researcher and teacher presenter pair. **Aim:** To provide a forum for an exchange of knowledge and ideas between researchers and practitioners (teachers, advisers and others)

<https://www.cstg.org.uk/programmes/rexchange/>

**2. BJRE special issue, teachers' engagement in and with research**, Autumn 2021. NOT a Research7 series output! However, 'stimulated' by Research7 –and representation from Research7 expected

<https://think.taylorandfrancis.com/religious-education-teachers-engagement-in-and-with-research/>