

**What really matters in RE?
Better teaching, better learning
18 June 2015**

Balancing **inspiration and practicality**, the conference offers a chance to **think through current issues** in RE, try out a host of **ready-to-use classroom resources**, meet other RE teachers and share ideas.

Programme:

8.45 Arrivals, sign-in and refreshments (including bacon sandwiches...)
9.15 RE, SMSC and British values: ... <i>Lat Blaylock</i> RE can be blown around by the whims of education policy. This session examines varied practical ways in which excellent RE promotes SMSC and explores British values.
10.15 Addressing Islamophobia <i>Kate Christopher</i> Practical ideas and resources to challenge prejudice and open up diversity in Islam in the classroom.
11.15 Break
11.45 Developing coherent understanding of religion <i>Stephen Pett</i> Are there ways of helping pupils to connect their learning, so that they can make sense of religion and belief? Some theoretical suggestions and practical implications.
12.45 Lunch
1.45 TeachMeet A chance for each school to share one excellent, practical idea for the RE classroom, from Y7 to Y13, any religion, any theme – just something that always works! 3 minutes each! Sign up on the booking form.
2.45 Future RE: diverse, critical, political? <i>Kate Christopher</i>
3.30 Evaluations and end of conference.

Venue: Tewkesbury Park Hotel, Lincoln Green Lane, GL20 7DN - easily accessible off the M5, M50 and A38

Fee: £100, including refreshments, lunch and resources.

You will receive copies of materials used during the day, including access to downloadable copies after the event.

Further classroom resources on sale at discounted prices.

Booking details attached. Please send to mark@retoday.org.uk or post to RE Today Services, 1020 Bristol Road, Birmingham, B29 6LB

Speakers:

We are delighted to have **Lat Blaylock** to lead some of today's sessions. Editor of REtoday magazine, Lat is an inspirational trainer of thousands of RE teachers each year, and member of the REC Review Expert Panel and development writing group. He's led sessions in this locality for years, so he always has to create something new for this conference. Cutting edge material.

We are joined for the first time by **Kate Christopher**, the new secondary adviser at RE Today, formerly head of RE at a large comprehensive in Holland Park, at a Pupil Referral Unit and a boys' grammar. She brings fresh ideas and inspiration from her diverse experience and insight, as well as her PhD studies in RE and philosophy of religion.

Stephen Pett, writer and editor of RE Today's series of secondary resources, a former Head of RE and AST, is currently adviser to Gloucestershire and Herefordshire SACREs. His long-standing interest in neuroscience and learning has contributed to his current research into the relationship between RE and happiness. He is happy to talk about this to anyone who will listen.

Some feedback from 2013 conference:

- *Excellent! Practical strategies as ever. Useful to meet people and network.*
- *AM: fantastic morning – thought-provoking and insightful for how to develop/foster spirituality amongst the staff and students of a faith school. PM: Interesting/engaging activities that can be used, applied, adapted to different KS needs.*
- *Lots of good ideas as ever, that are practical and can be used off the peg in many instances*
- *A great day as usual. Wonderful to take time out to get back to focusing on RE and learning, rather than admin/school issues.*
- *Really interesting, practical and relevant ideas and methods*
- *So many good ideas to put into practice/adapt and lovely to network with like-minded people.*
- *Really enjoyed the day.*

Some feedback from 2014 conference:

- *Lots of great ideas and resources as always. Super value for money. A 'must-do' CPD.*
- *Thank you!! So much to take away and so many brain cells firing (even so close to the end of term!) Love the deeper thinking stuff especially.*
- *Practical, useful, thought provoking. Thank you.*
- *Great ideas to take away and use in lessons*
- *Lots of creative ideas, particularly use of frames, Job for suffering and use of imagery, very engaging! Great range of resource available for purchase.*
- *Really informative, variety of information, felt welcomed, useful to use within dept inset. Thank you for a great day.*
- *Great to re-new links with colleagues. Good resource which will be useful and make an impact in lessons.*
- *Great to have things to take away. Good interaction – tasks are quick for us and so no time wasted.*
- *An excellent conference as ever. Lots of suggestions/ideas to take back to school.*
- *Great conference!*
- *Fantastic ideas and resources. I particularly enjoyed the opening up art and texts!*
- *More, more, more!*
- *Excellent ideas and resources. Lovely lunch! Good ideas and good to have time to network with others and share experiences.*