

Junior Cycle Religious Education Newsletter - January 2021



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Welcome

Dear RE Colleagues,

Happy New Year and welcome to the January edition of the Junior Cycle RE newsletter. Due to the changing landscape of teaching and learning and moving to the remote teaching and learning space, we would like you to know we will endeavour to support you as best we can over the coming weeks. Please see the [DE guidelines](#), attached, that can be found on the DE website. This month we explore the key skill of *Working Together*, and we will share technology and pedagogy tips to help support and develop this key skill.

Dates for your diary – December 2020

Upcoming events and celebrations from the interfaith calendar

6th	Epiphany - Christian Dia de los Reyes (Three Kings Day) - Christian
7th	Feast of the Nativity - Orthodox Christian
17th	World Religion Day - International
27th	International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust -

The Holocaust Memorial Day event was lived streamed from the Mansion House and can be viewed here

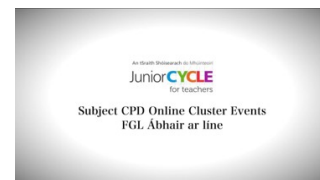
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zp9XsM1KGII&feature=youtu.be>

RE Cluster Day

The cluster days have started and we have received wonderful feedback. It's giving teachers the opportunity to engage with one another nationwide. With this in mind, we will explore how both ourselves as teachers and our students can work together during this time by focusing on the key skill of Working Together.

If you're wondering what your RE cluster day will look like online in the New Year, this short video will give you an idea of what to expect:

Subject CPD Online Cluster Events - YouTube



Link reference:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=riPpms0Qh24&feature=youtu.be>

See our checklist on the next page for the day.

Key Skill in Focus: Working Together

Working together well is dependent on your ability to communicate well, actively listen and be responsible. Working together collaboratively supports students in:



- Developing good relationships and dealing with conflict
- Co-operating
- Respecting difference
- Contributing to making the world a better place
- Learning with others
- Working with others through digital technology



Technology Tips

A really useful piece of technology that is helpful for the online space is Padlet. Padlet is a free online tool that is best described as an online notice board. Padlet can be used by students and teachers to post notes on a common page. The notes posted by teachers and students can contain:

- Links
- Videos
- Images
- Document files.



<https://padlet.com/>

A JCT strategy for Padlet online:

https://jct.ie/wholeschool/strategies_result.php?strategy_id=25

Students can use Padlet as a discussion/poster/note board that allows students to share their thoughts and ideas both in class and remotely. Submissions can be anonymous or require submission identification. Most forms of content can be submitted including : images, videos, documents, and text from any device. Students might find this useful when brainstorming ideas or compiling research to present. It allows students create a display place for sharing their learning with peers and their teacher. The aforementioned strategies work well when doing remote or blended learning.

Suggested strategy for learning in the socially distanced classroom

Placemat

Here is an updated version of the placemat activity for the online space.

Click [here](#) for further information on how to use *Placemat* in your classroom.



This activity gives all students the opportunity to work individually, to share ideas and learn from each other in a cooperative small-group discussion.

<https://jct.ie/perch/resources/wholeschool/strategies-placemat.pdf>

RE in the News



A series of inter-faith gatherings to celebrate religious festivals missed during 2020 began at the Dublin Lord Mayor’s garden near the Mansion House during December.

Rewind 2020, organised by the Dublin City Interfaith Forum, continued until December 14th with each day dedicated to a different faith. Beginning at 1pm each afternoon it included members of the following world religions: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism.

Please see the following link to direct you to the article:

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/religion-and-beliefs/faith-groups-celebrate-missed-festivals-at-mansion-house-in-dublin-1.4431122>

Cluster Day Checklist

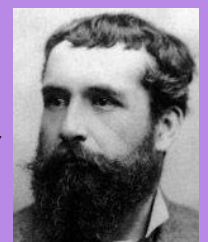
Here is a checklist for this day:

- Desktop computer, laptop or tablet device... with webcam and microphone
- Second device (useful but optional)
- Pen and paper
- Access to your subject departmental plans
- Access to Specification and Assessment Guidelines

Quote of the Month

It's on the strength of observation and reflection that one finds a way. So we must dig and delve unceasingly.

Claude Monet



Kind regards,

Religious Education Team