

Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of our Religious Education newsletter. The 2019-2020 school year marks the beginning of Junior Cycle RE. This newsletter will point you in the direction of useful resources to help you introduce the new RE specification. It will also give you a glimpse at the highlights of the first year of the JCT RE team from the 2018-2019 school year.



Meet the Team

The full time RE team (above from left to right) are Micheál Scully, Ailís Travers (Team Leader), Keith Young and Niall Mulpeter. As teachers working as part of the JCT Religious Education Team, we are dedicated to supporting teachers implementing the new Junior Cycle Religious Education Specification. This commenced in 2018-2019 through the continuous professional development (CPD) days and we have been delighted to meet with so many of our RE colleagues. It's heartening to meet teachers face-to-face while collaboratively engaging with the new specification. We look forward to working with you again this year.

Religious Education Resources

A wide range of resources are available on the RE page of www.jct.ie. You will find key documents, details about upcoming events, material from CPD events to date and resources to support Junior Cycle RE including posters and planning templates. The Junior Cycle RE Specification and other key documents are available by clicking [here](#).

Webinar

The RE webinar, 'Using the Junior Cycle Religious Education Specification to Plan a Unit of Learning,' will be a useful source of information to begin planning for Junior Cycle RE. Teachers that were able to join us live on March 28th 2019 asked lots of great questions. The recurring questions have formed part of our planning for this year. Thank you to all who participated in a thoroughly engaging evening.

You can access a recording of the webinar here: [Recording of Webinar Link](#)

Highlights of 2018/19:

Holocaust Memorial

The JCT Religious Education team were privileged to attend the 'Holocaust Memorial Day' ceremony in the Mansion House, Dublin on Sunday, 27th January. The theme for the evening was 'Learning from the past- lessons of today'. The team are pictured here with Holocaust survivor Tomi Reichental.



RTAI Annual Conference

We were delighted to attend and give the keynote address at the RTAI Annual Conference on March 9th at The Hudson Bay Hotel. This was a wonderful opportunity to meet teachers, attend workshops and collaborate with our subject association.



JCT Religious Education Symposium

In April we held an inaugural Junior Cycle RE symposium in DCU in partnership with the Irish Centre for Religious Education (ICRE). Tomi Reichental and Kevin Toolis were our keynote speakers for the day. A variety of workshops were hosted by the Muslim Sisters of Éire, Trócaire, Dr. Brad Anderson (DCU) and the JCT Team to enable engagement with the new learning outcomes from the specification.



Concluding the event, a panel discussion considering ritual and the new learning outcomes from the Religious Education specification was commenced and a questions and answers forum followed this session from our panel. To see the highlights from this event, click [here](#).

Important 2019-2020

The introductory CPD day from 2018/19 is being repeated in education centres around the country until October midterm. If you didn't get to join us last year there are still some limited spaces available for these days. The follow on CPD day begins in November and you can attend on the day that your school is closed for the JCT cluster training. See your school calendar for dates. Contact your Principal or JCT co-ordinator to register for either or both days. If possible bring a Wi-Fi enabled device with you. We look forward to seeing you during the year. Until then you might like to follow us on Twitter [@JCT_RE](#)

Kindest regards and best wishes for the new school year from the JCT Religious Education Team,

Ailís Travers,

Niall Mulpeter,

Micheál Scully,

Keith Young