

Junior Cycle Religious Education Newsletter - January 2022



@jct_RE



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Dear RE Colleagues,

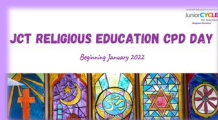
Welcome to the January edition of the Junior Cycle RE newsletter. We hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable break. Over the coming months, we will continue to explore the 8 Principles of Junior Cycle and how they emerge in the RE classroom. In this month's edition, we focus on Creativity and Innovation and we share some important information about our new CPD day that has commenced this January. We look forward to seeing you online.

Upcoming January events and celebrations from the interfaith calendar:

- 6th Epiphany (Christianity)
- 10th Bodhi Day (Buddhism)
- 17th Martin Luther King Jr. Day (All faiths)
- 27th Holocaust Memorial Day (Judaism)

CPD Day 4 Introduction

Our forthcoming CPD days in RE begin in January and will run until the end of March. Follow the link to access a brief introduction to the day's content. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ofae0QLUULk>



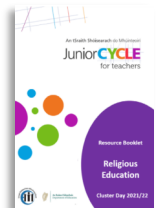
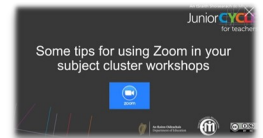
Cluster Day Checklist

For our CPD days, the following items are advised:

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

Cluster Day Checklist—continued

- Here is a link to a short video clip detailing some key information on how to use Zoom for your RE cluster workshop. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9hba3vhRWM>
- In particular, please ensure the Zoom app is updated on your device by opening the profile drop down menu, selecting *Check for Updates* and following all on-screen prompts to start the installation.
- Print or download booklet using the following links:



PDF print version: www.jct.ie/perch/resources/religiousedu/ple-4-jan-22-resource-booklet-2.pdf

Editable Word version: www.jct.ie/religious_education/cpd_workshops_2021_2022

Junior Cycle Principles: Creativity and Innovation

This month's focus is on the key principle Creativity and Innovation. Regarding this principle, the Framework for Junior Cycle (2015), page 11, notes:

Curriculum, assessment, teaching and learning provide opportunities for students to be creative and innovative





Creativity and Innovation in RE

The principle of Creativity and Innovation in RE encourages both teachers and students to be imaginative, curious and open-minded in their approach to learning. Since Spring 2020, RE teachers have become even more creative and innovative in their response to the pedagogical challenges by adapting to the evolving situations in which we found ourselves.



To address these challenges, the JCIS has updated its strategies to ensure our RE classrooms remain creative and innovative spaces. RE teachers can draw upon these repurposed teaching and learning strategies to foster creativity and innovation in both the physically distanced classroom and for students engaging with online learning from home. They are available for download on https://jct.ie/jcis/classroom_strategies and will also support RE teachers in continuing to nurture creativity in student learning in the unusual circumstances in which we find ourselves.

Technology in the Classroom

Although creativity is not predicated on the use of technology it can support developing creativity in the online space. To encourage and nurture this creativity further, the RE team have introduced a number of technology tools in our monthly newsletters to support engagement with creativity and the other key skills in the RE classroom.



These digital tools can also be used to enhance teaching, learning and collaboration online and in the physically distanced classroom:

<https://jct.ie/perch/resources/religiousedu/re-digital-technology-tools-1.pdf>

Used creatively in the RE classroom, these digital supports may help students bridge the learning gaps created by the disruptions over the past two years. Students may also find them useful in creating their own videos, posters and presentations to demonstrate evidence of learning.

RE and the Arts

Continuing on the theme of creativity, Disney Pixar's *Soul* explores the theme of trying to find purpose in life through meaningful work. The film's main insight is simple: there's more to life than our accomplishments. This simple message is embodied in the character of Joe Gardner (Jamie Foxx), a part-time music teacher who has greater aspirations to perform professionally as a jazz pianist. His whole life is encumbered with reaching this one goal, but when he finally gets his break with Dorothea Williams (Angela Bassett), Joe takes an unfortunate fall that nearly destroys his dream, casting him into the afterlife. There he meets 22 (Tina Fey) who has no interest in life on earth or what seems to give life meaning. From there, the two set out on a mission to find 22's "spark."



Like our previous suggestions, *Soul* is a film teachers might find useful in the classroom over the coming months when covering a variety of learning outcomes from the RE specification.

Quote of the Month

Though we live in a world that dreams of ending, that always seems about to give in, something that will not acknowledge conclusion insists that we forever begin.

Brendan Kennelly

Mailing List

If you know of any colleagues who have not received this newsletter, please encourage them to join our mailing list [here](#):

Le gach dea-mhéin,

Religious Education Team