

Junior Cycle Religious Education Newsletter - March 2021



@jct_RE



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Welcome

Dear RE Colleagues,

Welcome to the March edition of the Religious Education newsletter. We are delighted to have had the opportunity to engage with many teachers in the online space over the past weeks. To embed the key skills of junior cycle in this edition we will be considering the key skill of communication. As CBA1 may now be underway in your school we outline some updates in terms of samples of work and further technology tips to aid teaching and learning.

Dates for your diary – March 2021

March events and celebrations from the interfaith calendar

8th	International Women's Day
17th	St. Patrick's Day - Christian
20th	International Day of Happiness
23rd	Atheist Day
27th	Passover begins
28th	Palm Sunday - Christian



JCT Spring Online Learning Event

Religious Education Webinar
Report, Research, Reflect—what can we learn from the CBA process?

Join us Wednesday April 21st, at 7pm. Registration link [here](#) or available via JCT website.



RE CBA Update

The NCCA have informed us that the Religious Education CBA samples of work will be online in the coming weeks. They will be published on curriculumonline.ie.

Please see below for further details by clicking on the link:

<https://www.curriculumonline.ie/Junior-cycle/Junior-Cycle-Subjects/Religious-Education/>



Key Skill in Focus: Communicating

This key skill helps students develop good communication skills in all aspects of life, using a variety of media. The *Framework for Junior Cycle* explores what good communication looks like for students helping them develop the necessary skills. On the next page we will explore some strategies and technology tools to support communication in RE.



- Using language
- Using number
- Listening and expressing myself
- Performing and presenting
- Discussing and debating
- Using digital technology to communicate



Technology Tips

Name generator

Name generator is a classroom tool to pick random student names out to complete a task. The teacher can randomly choose student's names for a task using this particular application. It's an easy way to keep things fair in the classroom and make sure every learner has an opportunity to participate.



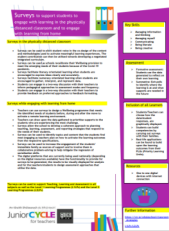
<https://www.classtools.net/random-name-picker/>

Suggested strategy for learning in the socially distanced classroom

JCT Pedagogy Strategy:

Surveys

Surveys can be used to elicit student voice in the co-design of the content and methodologies used to activate meaningful learning experiences.



Please see the link below for details:

https://jct.ie/wholeschool/pdf_strategies_for_active_engagement/surveys.pdf

Mentimeter

Over the course of our CPD days we have modelled a variety of ways to use Mentimeter as a means of engaging students to participate and articulate their views in the classroom. One function of mentimeter is to create surveys but it can also be used for word clouds, multiple choice, true or false or open-ended questions.

Students go to www.menti.com and insert the code to your questions. With an anonymous tool such as Mentimeter participants may feel more comfortable giving their honest opinions as they feel safer in doing so. Here is the link:

<https://www.mentimeter.com/>



RE in the News

RTE have produced a series of short clips called 'St Patricks Shorts'. In each one a members of a minority faith communities in Ireland offers a brief reflection on what Irishness and St Patrick means to them. There is one for each of the world religions in the Junior Cycle RE specification—Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism. Each clip is only 2-4 minutes in length but give great insight into the world religions in the Irish context.

They are available on RTE Player and the RTE YouTube Channel.

<https://www.rte.ie/player/series/st-patrick-s-shorts/SI0000008317?epguid=PL000006337>



Quote of the Month

"We can't heal the world today, but we can begin with a voice of compassion, a heart of love, and an act of kindness." - Mary Davis



Kind regards,

Religious Education Team