

## A Baker's Dozen of Websites for Primary RE

At present one of the main uses of ICT in primary RE is using the internet for pupil research or for teacher information.

If you are looking for very specific materials related to themes in the Agreed Syllabus then consult [http://www.ely.anglican.org/education/schools/collective\\_worship/](http://www.ely.anglican.org/education/schools/collective_worship/) where you will find on-line versions of all the recent RE Liaison Group materials – these include

The screenshot shows the BBC.co.uk Schools Religion page. The left sidebar contains a navigation menu with 'Worksheets' circled. The main content area is titled 'Religious Festivals' and displays a grid of festival cards for six major world religions: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, and Sikhism. Each card lists specific festivals with their dates. A lightbulb icon is visible to the right of the screenshot.

Religion	Festivals and Dates
Buddhism	Nirvana 08.02.07 Wesak May Full Moon 02.05.07
Christianity	Lent Begins 21.02.07 Easter Day 08.04.07 Christmas Day 25.12.07
Hinduism	Holi 03.03.07 Diwali 09.11.07
Islam	Ramadan 13.09.07 - 12.10.07 Eid-ul-Adha 20.12.07 - 23.12.07
Judaism	Passover 03.04.07 - 10.04.07 Rosh Hashanah 13.09.07 - 15.09.07 Yom Kippur 22.09.07 Hanukkah Begins 5.12.07
Sikhism	Baisakhi 13.04.07 Birthday of Guru Nanak 24.11.07

extensive lists of faith websites. In this section of *this* particular booklet we shall introduce you to some of the best gateway RE sites.



A good place to start your RE search is with the **BBC's website**. As well as extensive background materials on all faiths, there is a

section designed with schools in mind. This has materials on festivals in the six main faiths at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/religion/> with an accompanying set of basic worksheets at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/religion/worksheets/> For their main pages on faiths and ethics go to <http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/> As you would expect from the BBC, they have a superb religious photo collection at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/galleries/> which is perhaps not yet as extensive as you would wish, but has some quite unusual collections of materials. Their audio- video section of the website keeps changing as it obviously contains selections of materials from recent TV and radio programmes, but is certainly worth a look, and a listen...



A good RE Gateway website is **RE Online** (<http://www.reonline.org.uk/>) which incorporates several of the earlier disparate RE sites. Here you can find a large collection of resources organized by theme and topic as well as key stage. There is also a growing "Sights and Sounds" area, cross-curricular themes, a festivals calendar and extensive links to RE materials available on other websites. If you are looking for support for something in particular, then this website is a good place to find out what's around and available. This is also the site to start your search for virtual tours of places

of worship, or if you come across a religious term you do not recognize, you can consult

the RE Thesaurus. There are also links through to materials to support RE and collective worship co-ordinators. A “must check” site for anyone teaching RE!



If it is Christian materials you are looking for, then you might like the **RERequest** site at <http://www.request.org.uk/> At the time of going to press there

was a notice up saying the site was being totally re-designed but currently it has sections on basic Christianity, what Christians do, festivals, churches, the Bible, charities in action and Christian history. This site was originally developed specifically to support all aspects of teaching Christianity at KS2 -4, but there is now a fast growing section for KS1 as well with photographs, simple commentary and audio.



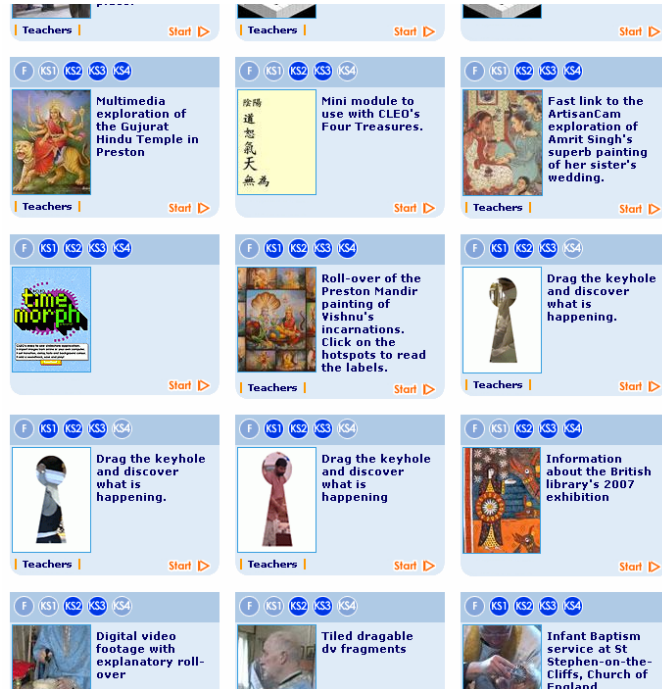
The RE Exchange Service at <http://re-xs.ucl.ac.uk/> is hosted by St Martin’s College in Lancaster. Some of its pages are materials produced in house, but it is also a gateway site with links to helpful websites, many from the faith communities themselves. In its world faiths section it has seven key themes: texts, art, pilgrimage, buildings, rites of passage, community and ultimate questions. The in-house texts cover the basics you will need and are usually accompanied by at least one photograph. It is also worth looking in the “Teacher’s Cupboard” where you can find such items as worksheets, schemes of work, recommendations for a variety of resource materials, and other support materials for RE co-ordinators.



Always look to see what is on offer close to home – if you haven’t discovered it yet the visit the RE section of the Cambridgeshire website at [www.re.ccceducation.net](http://www.re.ccceducation.net) Here you’ll find material on assessment, updated schemes of work, the Agreed Syllabus, and resources for both pupils and teachers.



It's not only Cambridgeshire which has RE materials on-line. One authority which definitely deserves more than a second look is Cumbria and Lancashire (CLEO) where, for example, you can find an *excellent collection of RE videos*. Some of these are already set up as "drag the keyhole" exercises. See <http://www.cleo.net.uk/> for the main index page. Resources are set up according to key stage. The picture to the right is just a fraction of the RE resources available.



**Redbridge** also has an impressive RE website (we know that because OFSTED says so!). See <http://www.redbridgerenet.co.uk/>. Why not delve into their RE and ICT section for some good ideas of how to use ICT e.g "Hot Potatoes" is a suite of interactive exercises which you can download and use, or there is how to set up a webquest activity in class. The secondary suggestions for lesson starters at <http://www.redbridgerenet.co.uk/wq/starters.html> are also interesting, and although some of the suggested quotations would probably be too complex for all but the brightest top primary class, many are usable with primary pupils, and the ideas behind the activities are well worth considering. Also use the Redbridge site for: outlines of RE and ICT INSETs; and an interesting gallery of good quality photographs; photos of school visits to faith centres in Redbridge.

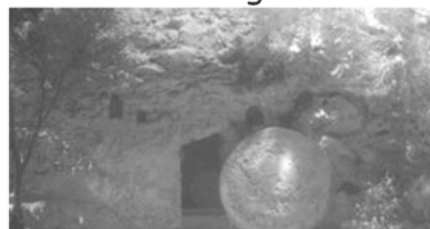


**Staffordshire Learning Net** at <http://www.sln.org.uk/re/> has a growing storyboard site at <http://www.sln.org.uk/storyboard/> and an extensive photograph gallery for all six faiths.



<http://www.tes.co.uk/resources/home.aspx> will take you to the TES resources pages. You need to register for this site (free) and this gives you access to a wealth of resources for all curriculum subjects. When checked just before

When Jesus died, they placed his body in a tomb which was cut in to a rock. The tomb was sealed with a large stone.



Christmas, there were over 330 downloadable suggestions in the RE section alone. This selection included a significant number of powerpoints etc for the interactive whiteboard, such as the Easter story for KS1 shown here.



Out of Oxfordshire comes the **Eduweb** site at <http://atschool.eduweb.co.uk/carolrb/index1.htm> with materials written at primary school level on the six faiths. Another school based site is that from Robert Hitcham's School in Suffolk at [http://www.hitchams.suffolk.sch.uk/Resources/index\\_files/re.htm](http://www.hitchams.suffolk.sch.uk/Resources/index_files/re.htm) with materials such as the Educhurch tours of three different churches and also a mosque and synagogue tour. I did find, however, that a lot of their links on the index page were broken.. or going somewhere they shouldn't!



**Strathclyde University** has a considerable amount of basic RE materials on-line which are designed to be used by its teachers in training. For a list of their artefacts (photographs and line-drawings with accompanying information) go to : <http://www.strath.ac.uk/curricularstudies/re/db/reartefacts/fulllist/> and <http://www.strath.ac.uk/curricularstudies/re/db/redrawings/> All of these drawings and photographs are available as pdfs which can be incorporated easily into worksheets and displays. There are also collections of stories (so far only Bible stories) at <http://www.strath.ac.uk/curricularstudies/re/db/restories/>



If it is actual teaching ideas for using ICT in RE that you are looking for, then a try the **BECTA** ICT Advice site with its case studies of activities and tasks which might inspire you. Follow the links through "Schools" and "Curriculum" or go direct to [http://schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=cu&catcode=ss\\_cu\\_ac\\_rel\\_03](http://schools.becta.org.uk/index.php?section=cu&catcode=ss_cu_ac_rel_03)

### **REMEMBER!!!!!!**

Before you use any website with pupils you need to ask questions about the reading levels, quality of information and age appropriateness of materials.

- Faith community websites *may*: use "incomprehensible insider language"; be produced by a group unrepresentative of the mainstream religious tradition; be over-concerned with details, or even be hostile to members of other faith communities.
- School based resources *may* "dumb down" materials, or work put on-line by pupils may simply be inaccurate.

There is a lot of excellent material available on-line, but there are also unhelpful websites which can confuse or misinform pupils. Remember to check any websites you use for both suitability and accuracy *before* presenting them to your class.