

Session Outline

Session leader: Dr Emma Salter

Co-presenter / accompanying teacher: Helen Rivers

Session title:

A Communities of Practice approach to supporting teachers and teacher-agency in practitioner-research.

Key questions addressed:

- What do Primary RE teachers say about the ups and downs of practitioner-research?
- How does a Communities of Practice approach support teacher agency in practitionerresearch in Primary RE?
- How was a practitioner-research project on 'scripture, stories and hermeneutical enquiry in Primary RE' tackled?

Main content and activities of session:

- Helen explains how she, and her co-researcher Natalie, planned and conducted a research project to investigate Primary RE teachers' confidence with textual enquiry in their RE classes.
- Helen's project is one of seven different projects conducted by a group of nine Primary RE teachers. Emma explains how these teachers were brought together to form a mutually supportive Community of Practice, with teacher-agency as the driving philosophy of their practitioner-research.

Links to resources, publications, etc:

The findings of this research will be made available at a later date on the CSGT website.

BERA (British Educational Research Association) Research and the teaching profession.

https://www.bera.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/BERA-RSA-Research-Teaching-Profession-FULL-REPORT-for-web.pdf

Big Ideas for Religious Education. Edited by Barbara Wintersgill.

https://socialsciences.exeter.ac.uk/media/universityofexeter/collegeofsocialsciencesandinternationals tudies/education/research/groupsandnetworks/reandspiritualitynetwork/Big Ideas for RE E-Book.pdfx

Commission on Religious Education. Final Report. Religion and Worldviews: The Way Forward. https://www.commissiononre.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Final-Report-of-the-Commissionon-RE.pdf



