

Neil's loving farewell ... but we shall keep in touch



Looking back at how Neil has supported, rallied, mentored and interrupted life at REinspired, well, it was so full of fun and inspirational! We shall miss him very much but excited to know we'll work with him again once he's settled in Bristol ☺

Revd Neil Warwick writes,

I have been a Trustee and team member of REinspired for 10 years. As I prepare to move to Bristol, I have been reflecting on all that is good and worthwhile about REinspired's (REi) work and mission...

Hands up!

At the start of an REi session there will always be a few open questions to the whole class, *'who knows what praying is?'* was the one in my last session. Numerous eager hands go up accompanied by loads of *'ooh, ooh, pick me.'* The REi team always go to all the hands raised to hear what the children have to say...everyone who wants to be heard is heard and their contribution valued. This is a deep, virtuous character trait of REi in practice, all children can contribute and add to the learning of all. You see children grow as they are caught in the appreciative gaze of the REi team member.

Schools love it!

The schools local to me love REi. They always rate the sessions so highly. The sessions support the RE curriculum in ways that are engaging and creative. They give teachers and assistants a chance to stand back, see their children enjoy the topic, craft, great input...and then build on the learning when back in the classroom. And because the REi team keep up to date with curriculum changes and sessions always add value.



Children love it!

When I was at school I was never happier than when the teacher said, *'today we're going to...'* It didn't really matter where it was as long as it was out of the classroom and you'd see new things and new people. REi gets children out of the classroom and into local churches, where they meet kind and motivated people who sit with them, learn with them and encourage them. Children love it.

I love it!

I'll be honest with you, on any given Tuesday when there's an REi session and I'm walking towards it I'll think, *'there are 101 things I ought to be doing as a church leader this afternoon...cutting and sticking with YR 1 isn't top of that list.'* And I guarantee, every time as I walk home after the session I say, *'thank God I was there this afternoon.'* REi does that to you, you have to be there to experience its joy and goodness, its interactions, stories and conversations. You have to be there to hear the beauty and wisdom and fun of the children gathered.

Just do it!



REi is a brilliant way of churches in any given place to form a lasting relationship with the schools in their area in ways that support the school, its teachers and children. REi builds community connections and we need that today more than ever. It reminds children and teachers what Christians believe whilst never seeking to change what they

believe...that's why schools love it and why it works in multi-faith areas like mine. If you're a church leader, teacher, church member reading this...I recommend you explore REi in your context and see what riches it can bring.

*Neil
May 2019*