



Helping churches and schools bring RE to life in Earley & East Reading

11 February 2020

Sharing REInspired's story

REInspired, based at St Nicolas Church, Earley, is an ecumenical group of Christians in Earley and East Reading delivering RE sessions to schools. We started 17 years ago when one of our primary schools asked a local minister for help with their RE. The Churches Together in Earley and East Reading team embraced the opportunity and REInspired was born. Our aim is to meet the need of the locally agreed RE syllabus and bring RE to life. Having started with one class in one school, REInspired now supports every class in all 11 local primary schools as well as three secondary schools.



When we started we had dreams of meeting and working with 'every child, every year, every school'. 17 years later that dream is a reality.

Our 3-minute video featuring Julia discussing and questioning Ben Kautzer, volunteer and curate at St Nicolas Church is here: https://youtu.be/LZryNu_fc24 and can also be seen through our website, section 'Who we are'.

REInspired BIG Questions session for Year 6 pupils of Hawkedon School at Lower Earley Baptist Church

And the Bishop came to answer some BIG questions

REInspired's Big Question session aims to answer pupil's questions that are important to them.

On 13th June at Lower Earley Baptist Church in Reading Bishop Steven Croft not only came to visit an REInspired session but joined in too!

"We have been working with the Year 6 children, of Hawkedon Primary School, since they were in Foundation," says Julia Jones, Project Director of REInspired. "All of our sessions meet the needs of the RE syllabus. But this session is different as it is the children who set the questions and we then design the session and activities accordingly."



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Some of the pupil's asked questions about what happens when we die. Leaders introduced the topic using the story of 'Water bugs and Dragonflies' by Doris Stickney which led to deeper discussion in their small group. The pupils were given an opportunity to respond by using art and craft.

Pupils then gathered together as one group and Bishop Steven settled himself down into the big 'Mastermind' chair. With two minutes on the clock the Bishop how many questions did he answer? He managed to answer 11 fully and successfully before the bell went. Some of the questions included:

"What do you do when you wake up?"

With a smile he answered, "I get out of bed, have a coffee and I pray."

"Will Jesus always be with you?"

The Bishop firmly said, "Yes, including in death and beyond death."

"If God is real why is He not helping people in need?"

Thoughtfully, the Bishop answered, "I think God is helping people in need a lot. God calls us to help these people and has given all we need to do so."



Afterwards the pupils had the opportunity of questioning the Bishop directly. They eagerly put their hands up. One of the questions was:

"If you could change anything in the world what would it be?"

Bishop Steven answered, "It would be war and conflict. It's terrible when it happens to people but when its caused by other people I think it's the worst."

Teachers are invited to feedback their comments on every session. Today the Hawkedon staff reflected, "REinspired organised this session very well with a good variety of activities and just the right pace. We found it covered useful aspects of PSMSC (Personal, Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural). The children were engaged and thoroughly enjoyed questioning the Bishop."