

Information sheet for teachers interested in working with us

Who are we and why are we contacting you in your school?

We are researchers at Canterbury Christ Church University and work for LASAR – Learning about Science and Religion. We would like to work with you and your class to share and tailor research-based teaching strategies. Most of the learning activities we work on with you can be included in your existing lessons and won't take much time.



What are we doing and why?

Many people are saying that pupils' experiences of learning in some subjects has become monopolised by learning 'right answers' for tests – a kind of 'pub quiz curriculum'. Meanwhile pupils miss out on essential understanding that is in the curriculum but neglected in practice. Our work looks at pupils' understanding of how science and other disciplines address different types of questions including Big Questions. Big Questions include, how can we keep the planet safe, can a robot think for itself and why do living things exist?

Via our research we produce reports and resources to help teachers and may also inform the design of the next school curriculum. There is a video of some of our activities at a recent 'Big Questions Day' for schools filmed by BBC Breakfast - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p07blqmv>

What would you do to take part?

We would like you to attend an information evening which is collaboratively delivered by researchers from Canterbury Christ Church University and the Leeds Trinity College. In this session we will be introducing the theoretical background and necessity of our project as well as a range of activities that are suitable for primary school students to improve their understanding of different types of questions and how science, history, religion and other ways of knowing can address them. Then we would like you to run one or two sessions for your pupils at school. Your pupils will fill a survey prior to the session and after the session you are running. The data gathered will be analysed by researchers and the findings shared with you. When we write and publish the research, no real names or identifiers are included.