

# Worldview – Friend or Foe for the Church School?

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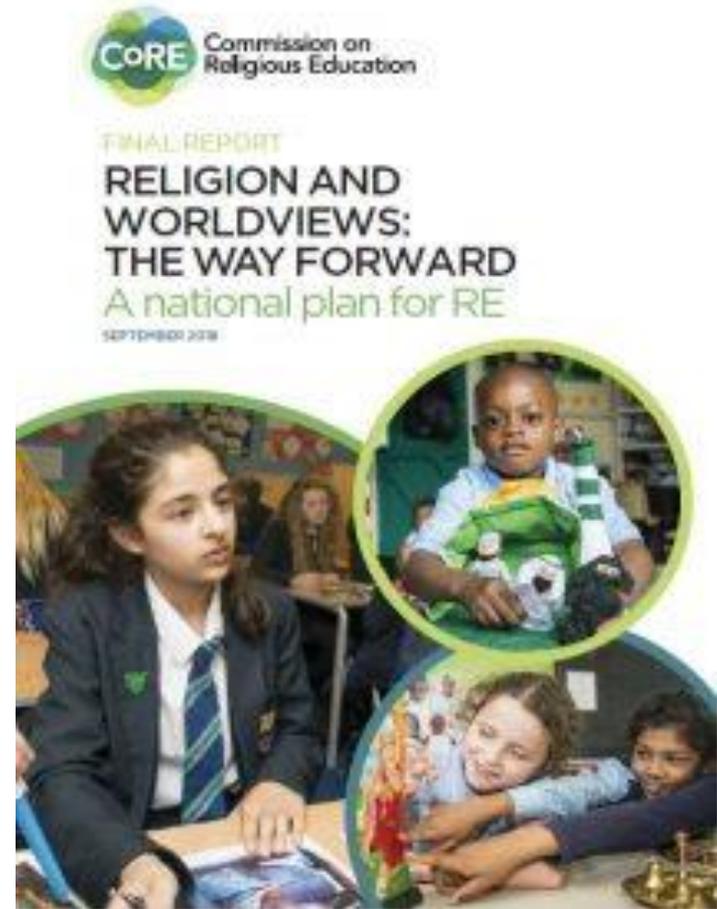
# Commission on RE Motivation for Change

- Pupil Educational Entitlement
- Creaking Structures
- High Quality Teaching
- RE Culture War



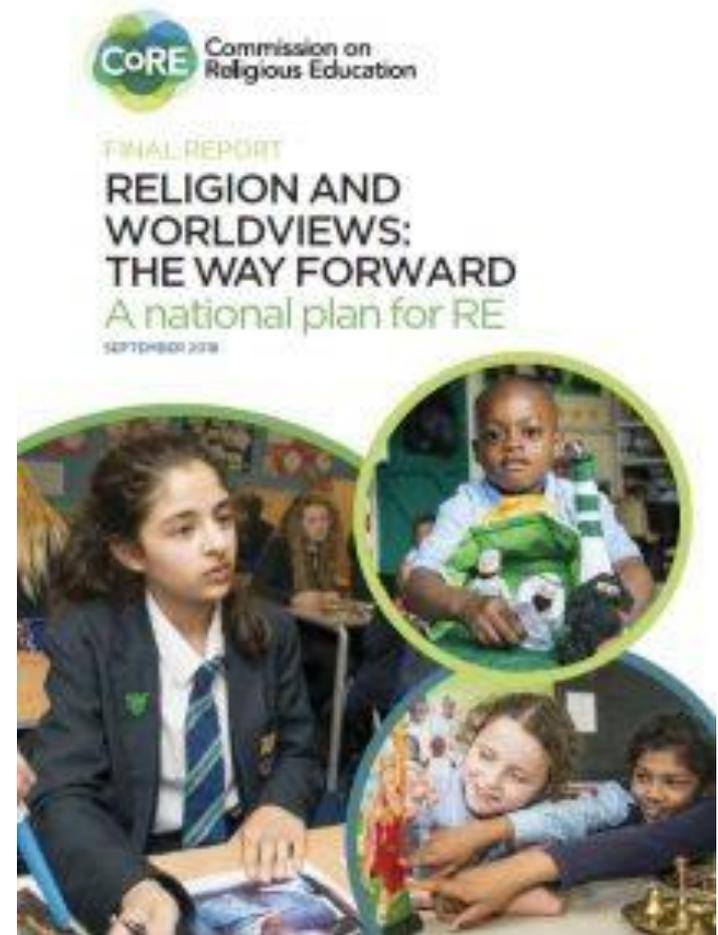
# CoRE's Vision: Two Key Ideas

- National Entitlement
- Worldview



# Worldview

- Everyone has a worldview; their way of seeing, making sense of and giving coherence and meaning to the world and to their own experience and behaviour (Page 30)



# Worldview

A worldview is a person's way of understanding, experiencing and responding to the world. It can be described as a philosophy of life or an approach to life. This includes how a person understands the nature of reality and their own place in the world. A person's worldview is likely to influence and be influenced by their beliefs, values, behaviours, experiences, identities and commitments. (Page 8)

# The Debate about Worldview

## Worldview 1

- a comprehensive conception or apprehension of the world, especially from a specific standpoint (*weltanschauung*)
- Propositions matter
- Knowledge transmission

## Worldview 2

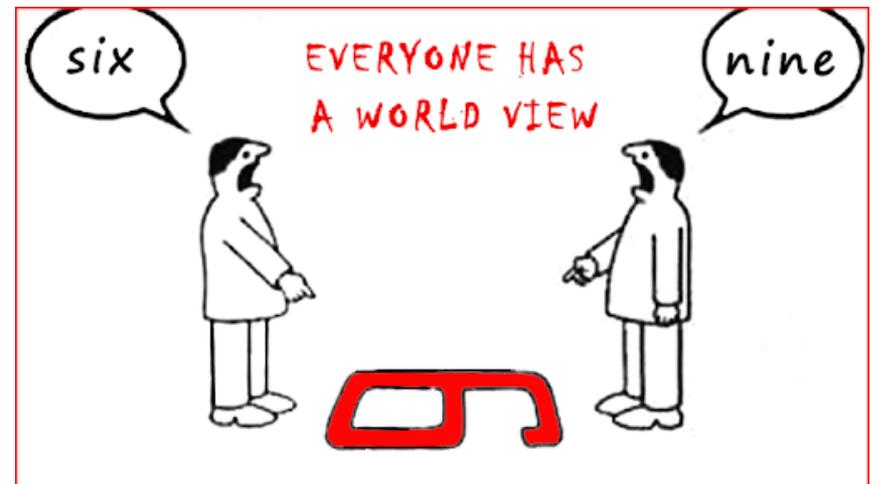
- ingrained habits, skills, and dispositions. It is the way that individuals perceive the world around them and react to it. Virtues and desires matter.
- Propositions and practices matter
- Character formation

# Paradigm Shift?

## World Religions Paradigm



## Worldview Paradigm



# The RE Curriculum on the World Religions Paradigm



# The Paradigm Shift to Worldview

- Lived Experience
- Fuzzy Edges and Fluid Nature (Diversity) rather than Fixed and Bounded (Monochrome)
- Continuity and Change rather than Fixed Tradition
- Contextual rather than Ahistorical
- Knowing as Interpretation

# National Entitlement

- Recognize the role of interpretation in worldview development
- Recognize the complexity of worldviews and how they change
- Reflect on their own worldview and its development.
- Recognize the complexity of the relationship between the personal and the institutional in worldview development.
- Reflect on power and worldview diversity in the modern world

# Responding to the Commission

**The Commission Report**

**Catholic Classroom  
Experience**

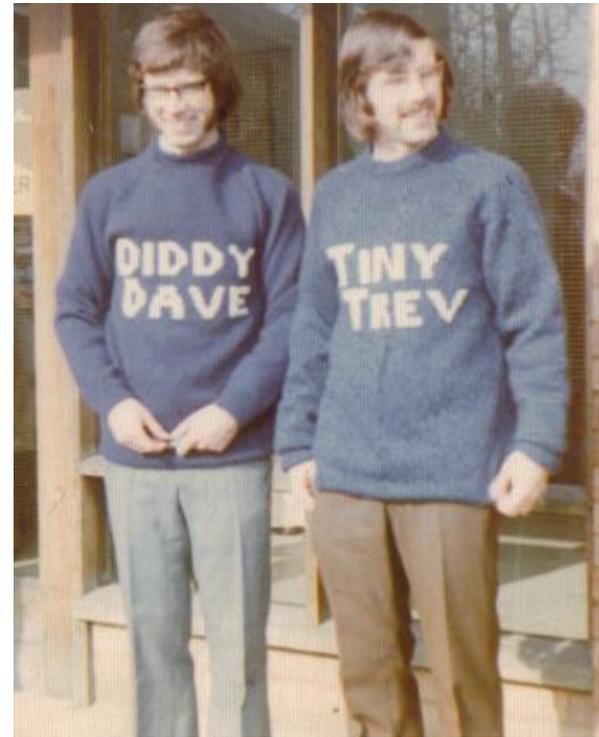


# Worldview in the Commission

## Organised

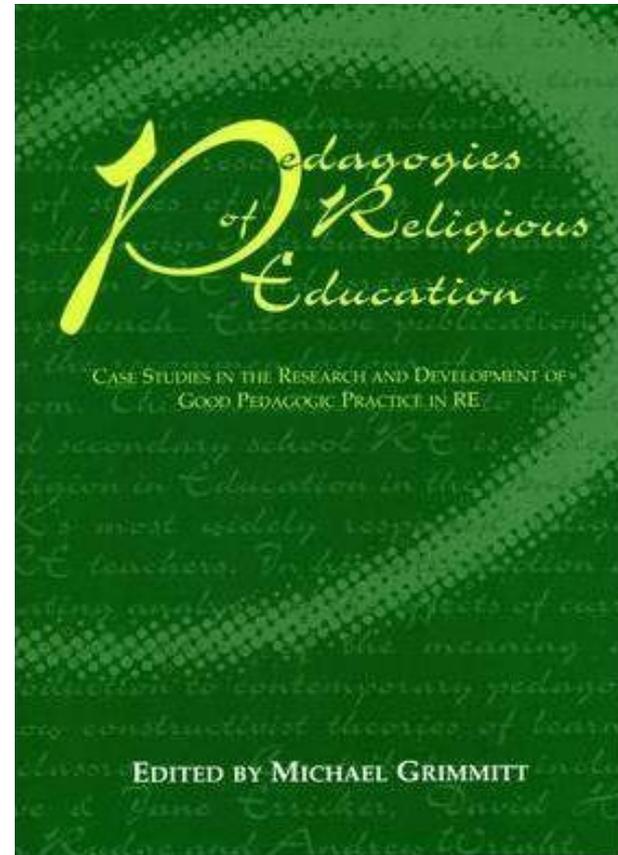


## Personal



# Pedagogy: The Missing Link?

- Pupils should evaluate their understanding of religion in personal terms and evaluate their understanding of self in religious terms (p. 15)



# Academic Understanding?

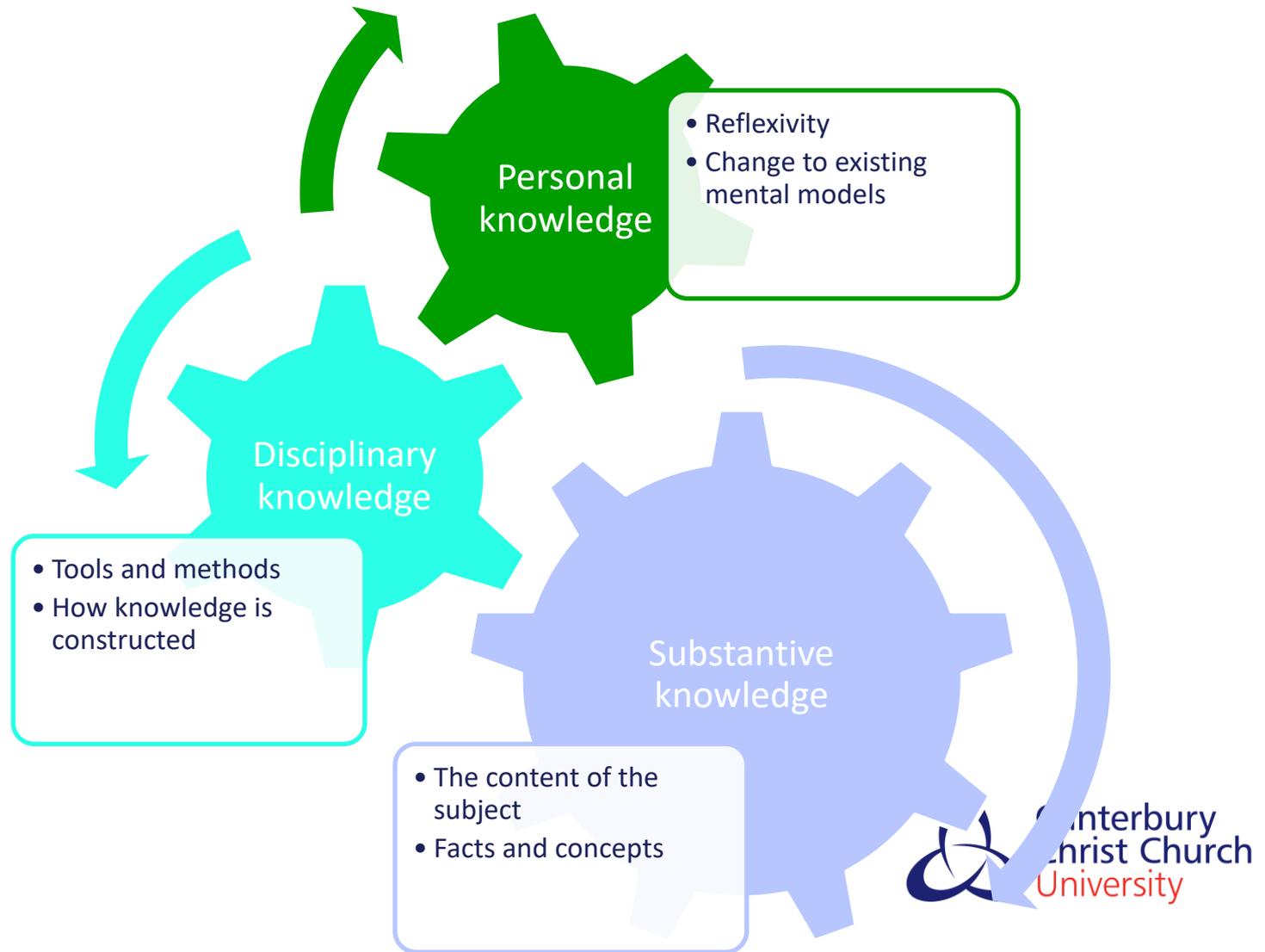
## World Religions Paradigm

- Knowing, remembering and deploying information (knowledge acquisition)
- Focus: Information about world religions
- Mastery
- Rational objectivity
- Head knowledge

## Worldview Paradigm

- Interpreting significance and meaning of information (hermeneutics)
- Focus: Worldview questions (National Entitlement)
- Humility and reflexivity
- Wise interpretation
- Personal knowledge

# Ofsted View of Knowledge and Curriculum



# Epistemology

# Positivist Certainty

Young Woman



# Knowledge as Decisive, Certain and Universal

Looking back at the previous chapters I cannot escape the feeling that everything I have said is obvious...I am also inclined to think that the broad position I have adopted is largely a matter of common sense.

Richard Norman, *On Humanism*, 2004

# Radical Constructivism

Old Woman or  
Young Woman?  
Or Goat?



# Radical Constructivism

Belief that there are many pathways for making spiritual progress.



# Critical Realism: Truth-seeking Hermeneutics

Old Woman or Young  
Woman?

That's an important  
question!



# Two Mindsets for Catholic Religious Education

## Positivist

- Assumes a normative worldview ethos
- Transmission (baton exchange)
- Persuasion
- Monolithic
- Apologetic emphasis

## Critical Realist

- Openness about worldview ethos
- Interpretation
- Debate
- Accepts diversity
- Hermeneutical emphasis

# The Purpose of Catholic Religious Education

- to enable each pupil to understand, reflect on and take responsibility for the development of their own personal worldview
- By benefitting from the interaction between the institutional Catholic worldview and their own developing personal worldview

# Worldview Approach

## Friend or Foe?