

Curriculum Vitae

Emeritus Professor Trevor James Cooling

Academic Record

BA (First Class Hons) in Natural Sciences and Education: University of Cambridge (1970-1974). University Exhibition 1970. University Scholarship 1972.

Diploma in Theology: University of London (1976-1978)

MA in Religious Education (Distinction): University of London (1983-1984)

PhD in Religious Education (George Cadbury Prize for best thesis in Faculty of Education): University of Birmingham (1986-1992)

Employment

Teacher at Banbury Comprehensive School (1974-1976) and at Aylesbury Grammar School (1978-1985). Posts held included Head of RE, Head of Careers and Housemaster.

Various posts at Stapleford Centre (1985-2002 and 2004-2010), a charity dedicated to the development of a Christian contribution to schools.

University of Gloucestershire (2003-2004) where I was a Principal Lecturer in Theology responsible for developing a distance-learning BA degree in *Theology for Christian Ministry*.

Professor of Christian Education at Canterbury Christ Church University 2010 to 2020). (Director of National Institute for Christian Education Research from 2010 to 2016.)

Main Achievements

I am fascinated by the contribution that worldviews in general and Christianity in particular can make to human flourishing through active contribution to education. During my career I have been privileged to be able to utilise my passion for science, theology and philosophy in a variety of educational initiatives with outcomes for both school teachers and pupils. My current work is focussed on how people's understanding of knowledge significantly impacts on how they function as citizens in modern plural society. Some career highlights have been:

- Successful academic career including a double first in my BA at University of Cambridge, a distinction at Masters level from London University, a prize winning PhD from Birmingham University and a peer-reviewed publications list in Religious and Christian Education spanning 30 years. My publication *Doing God in Education* was the subject of symposia at the Royal Society of Arts in February 2011, the British Educational Research Association in September 2011 and the American Educational Research Association in April 2012 and of a special issue of the *Oxford Review of Education* (Vol. 38:5, October 2012). My recent article

on the worldviews approach to Religious Education published by the British Journal of RE is currently the 15th most viewed article (<https://doi.org/10.1080/01416200.2020.1764497>).

- Energising a moribund Religious Education department at Aylesbury Grammar School to the point where a majority of students voluntarily took an exam at 16+, there was a thriving group studying for an academic qualification at 18+ and students won places at Oxbridge to read Theology.
- Leading the Stapleford Centre from a struggling conference centre to a thriving centre of excellence in Christian education with an international reputation. This included developing the only university-validated, distance-learning courses in Religious Education for Christian teachers available in Britain at the time at Diploma and Masters levels, which graduated over 100 students. Alumni are now in influential positions, including the current Chief Education Officer of the Church of England.
- Securing a £1 million grant to develop materials for teaching Christianity in schools and leading the subsequent project to successful completion. As part of this, developing *Concept Cracking*, a theological approach to teaching Christianity that is now integrated into local and national syllabuses and is taught to students in teaching training institutions across Britain.
- Successfully integrating the Open Theological College into the University of Gloucestershire and re-designing the degree to be taught electronically.
- Leading the *Transforming Lives* Project on teaching as a Christian vocation on behalf of the Jerusalem Trust to meet all its targets between 2006-2012, including producing a Toolkit for Churches, developing a website, negotiating significant partnership arrangements and organising three high-profile conferences.
- Developing the *What If Learning* approach as a Christian contribution to character education as part of a partnership with the Kuyers Institute at Calvin College in Michigan. This approach is now widely adopted in Church of England and other schools in the UK and is influential across the world (www.whatiflearning.com).
- Contributing to the development of Religious Education in schools through publishing both academic work and classroom resources, through contribution to governmental initiatives and through the Religious Education Council of England and Wales of which I was Chair for six years (2015-2021) and where I served as a trustee for 13 years.
- Initiating and serving on the secretariat and writing group for the influential Commission on RE report in England (2018) and subsequently initiating and leading two major implementation projects funded by the Templeton World Charity Foundation.
- Developing an international ministry in both Religious Education and Christian Education. This has included being the first travelling scholar for the Australian Anglican Schools Network in August/September 2008, visiting all six states. I have visited Australia on eight other occasions to speak at conferences and CPD events
- Leading three large, externally-funded research projects at Canterbury Christ Church University on character education and spiritual development in Christian-ethos schools to successful completion .
- Working with 21 doctoral students to successful completion on a wide range of topics relating to Christian and Religious Education. This included recruiting the Jubilee cohort of 14 students for the professional doctorate to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Canterbury Christ Church University.
- Externally examining 10 doctorates.

- Editing the *Journal of Education and Christian Belief* and then merging it with the Australian *Journal of Christian Education* to form the *International Journal of Christianity and Education* published by SAGE (<https://journals.sagepub.com/home/ice>).
- Authoring a host of books, chapters and peer-reviewed articles. Full details are available at <https://repository.canterbury.ac.uk/researcher/80vq9/professor-trevor-cooling>