

North Yorkshire SACRE Newsletter

School Improvement and Early Years' Service September 2025

PLEASE PASS ON TO YOUR RE SUBJECT LEAD AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP LEAD

Welcome to the Autumn term SACRE newsletter for North Yorkshire schools. This termly newsletter will keep you up to date on what SACRE is doing and the support it offers to North Yorkshire schools alongside national and regional updates and news on RE resources, collective worship resources and training.

What is SACRE?

The acronym SACRE stands for: Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Why is there a SACRE?

Every local authority (LA) has to have a SACRE by law. The Children's Services division of the LA that takes responsibility for making sure SACRE works well and SACRE's work is related to schools and their curriculum.

What does a SACRE do?

The law says that RE must be taught in all schools and a SACRE's role is to advise its local authority on what needs to be done to improve religious education (RE) and collective worship for schools in its area. This is because RE is not part of the National Curriculum; it is a local responsibility. Through the SACRE, local communities and teachers have the opportunity to influence and support what pupils learn in RE.

The SACRE's main function is to advise the local authority on matters related to the religious education, which follows the locally agreed syllabus, and on collective worship in schools.

Where do I go for advice relating to RE or Collective Worship in my school?

Olivia Seymour, is the Professional RE Adviser for maintained schools in North Yorkshire over the coming academic year. (Please note for church schools Olivia can provide advice relating to the Agreed Syllabus but we encourage church schools to seek wider RE advice from their home diocese)



Olivia also provides advice to community schools on matters relating to collective worship (church schools should again seek advice from their home diocese)

Enquires into the Local Authority can be directed to schoolimprovementservice@northyorks.gov.uk and the service will provide a conduit to the specialist advice.

You can find out more about RE in North Yorkshire schools here:

<https://cyps.northyorks.gov.uk/religious-education-re> You can find out more about collective worship in North Yorkshire schools here: <https://cyps.northyorks.gov.uk/collective-worship>

RE Subject Networks and training for RE Leads

This year NYCC is again offering termly online professional practice networks for all schools. These networks will include support for subject knowledge, curriculum-planning using the North Yorkshire Agreed Syllabus, national and local updates, resources to support RE and an opportunity to ask questions and share good practice. There will also be a subject leadership course for new and developing RE leads in Primary Schools. Details of all the upcoming networks and courses are below



| Termly Primary RE Networks | Date | Online Code | Start | End |
|---|-------------|-----------------|-------|-------|
| Primary Religious Education (RE) Autumn Network | 12/11//2025 | SI-OM-1125-T007 | 13:30 | 15:30 |
| Primary Religious Education (RE) Autumn Network | 2011/2025 | SI-OM-1125-T008 | 09:30 | 11:30 |
| Primary Religious Education (RE) Spring Network | 05/03/2026 | SI-OM-0326-T004 | 13:30 | 15:30 |
| Primary Religious Education (RE) Spring Network | 11/03/2026 | SI-OM-0326-T005 | 09:30 | 11:30 |
| Primary Religious Education (RE) Summer Network | 04/06/2026 | SI-OM-0626-T007 | 09:30 | 11:30 |
| Primary Religious Education (RE) Summer Network | 10/06/2026 | SI-OM-0626-T008 | 13:30 | 15:30 |
| Primary RE Leadership Course | Date | Online Code | Start | End |
| Session 1 | 05/02/2024 | SI-OM-0226-T008 | 09:30 | 12.00 |
| Session 2 | 25/02/2024 | SI-OM-0226-T008 | 13:00 | 15:30 |

Bookings can be made through [NYES Info](#) .

If any assistance with bookings is required you can contact nyes@northyorks.gov.uk or telephone 01609 533 222. If you have any further questions or queries relating to the courses you can contact Schoolimprovementservice@northyorks.gov.uk or telephone 01609 79 88 64

News from RE Hubs

MAT and Federation RE Lead National Network 2025-6



Brought to you by NATRE and AREIAC, this national network is a fantastic opportunity for you as the RE Leader across your MAT/Federation to explore and network high-quality RE.

The network provides opportunities for:

- High-quality leadership: Top tips from others in this role.
- Networking opportunity: Meet RE Leads in MATs across the country.
- High-quality RE: National updates & links to opportunities and resources for

your MAT.

Dates:

- 14 October 2025 - 4.00 - 5.30 PM Speaker: Emma Salter, leader of the personal knowledge in RE research project
- 21 April 2026 - 4.00 - 5.30 PM

Cost: FREE for NATRE and AREIAC members. If you are not a member of these organisations, then there is a fee of £100 to attend. Access [flyer](#). BOOK YOUR PLACE [HERE!](#)

Inter Faith Week for Schools 2025

Community: Together We Serve 9 – 16 November 2025

Join Inter Faith Week and give students in your school the chance to explore different faiths and beliefs, build empathy, and strengthen understanding across difference.

**Interfaith Week
for Schools**
Linking Faiths, Beliefs, and
Communities



"This generation is one of the best placed generations for interfaith work. We are more open and honest than older generations. We're ready to make the change"

Faith & Belief Team, Parliamentarian participant 2022/23

This year's theme is Community: Together We Serve

Inter Faith Week is a great opportunity to connect with local communities; understand how faith motivates people to social action; and explore how interfaith approaches can help build togetherness in the face of division.

On the 1st September, the new Interfaith Week for Schools Website launched. keep in touch, share photos and let them know what you got up to in your school, SACRE or community, and help them spread the positive outcomes of linking faiths, beliefs and communities.

Access [Inter Faith Week website](#).

The Wallace Collection



The Wallace Collection is a national museum housing paintings, sculpture, furniture, arms and armour, porcelain and sacred objects from around the world. It is situated in central London, near Oxford Street, and close to Bond Street Underground Station. The museum offers free school sessions for both primary, secondary and SEND schools. Find further details here:

<https://www.wallacecollection.org/learn/teachers-and-schools/>

The Collection offers an RE session, *Sacred Art* onsite and online, lasting 1-2 hours, where students study religious artefacts through close-looking and analysis. This session has been developed with Alexis Stones from UCL's IOE to open up pupils' critical engagement with sacred art, religious symbolism and big questions around the role of museums. The session for RE is tailored to different age groups and student and curriculum needs, for Key Stages 3-5. Further information about the workshop (in person at the museum or online) is here:

<https://www.wallacecollection.org/learn/teachers-and-schools/secondary-schools/sacred-art-secondary-onsite/>. There is also a set of downloadable resources and a PowerPoint to support subject knowledge and guide preparatory and follow-up work:

<https://www.wallacecollection.org/learn/teachers-and-schools/secondary-schools/secondary-resources-artRE/>

What's New From Understanding Humanism



- **Online course!** Our Introducing humanism: non-religious approaches to life course with Sandi Toksvig is now open! This free, online course explores the nature of humanism and its response to life's big questions. Perfect for humanist subject knowledge for teachers of all age groups. Find out more and register today!
- **Understanding Humanism articles** – check out the beginning of this brand new collection of inspiring reflections on what it means to have a humanist approach to life, and teaching about humanism in the classroom. Start with 'Human Nature, Human Potential' – a look at how to teach humanism in a positive and memorable manner, or Our Favourite Picture Books and Stories – a selection of stories to inspire and illuminate the teaching of children of all ages about humanism.
- Expanded **'Humanist Perspectives'** resources: discover new materials linked to key GCSE RS topics, including families and relationships, medical ethics, prejudice and discrimination, and wealth and poverty. Provide your pupils with diverse humanist viewpoints on these topics and many more.



Looking for book ideas for RE? left on from last term as it may be useful at the beginning of the school year

Primary RE: A headteacher in Lincolnshire Karl Duke has curated examples of RE-related picture books here:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1wsDcT_51bRJ_jyHQYNHDWFlafYHnRopX/edit#slide=id.p1 and here:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1dOPEEYdmrh_UkDNgGPm3kvatfDWuOY_R/edit#slide=id.p1

Secondary RE City of Leicester College has a reading list for KS3
<https://www.cityleicester.co.uk/assets/Literacy/Religious-Education-Reading-List.pdf>

Primary and Secondary RE: The Booktrust website has some helpful ideas:
<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/search/?q=religion>

NATRE offers guidance on selecting appropriate books: <https://www.natre.org.uk/about-re/guidance-on-resources/books/> There is also a NATRE book list for Members only.

REChatUK

NATRE's monthly Twitter forum, #REChatUK takes place on the first Monday of the month, from 8-9pm. These fast-paced, fun and informative discussions are a great way to discover new ideas, resources and conversations. The forum is also an effective place to network and meet new people on Twitter. Follow [@NATREupdate](#) on Twitter, and the hashtag #REChatUK.



Festival Calendar

Search for religious festivals by religion and/or month here:

<https://www.reonline.org.uk/festival-calendar/>



Ever wondered if you are pronouncing a word correctly? Check out this audio resource from the Shap Calendar Goup, who collate a calendar of religious festivals.

There is also NEW Shap offer the eBook Glossary of key religious terms that you can embed into your website or use on the interactive display. A sample of this can be found at:

<https://read.bookcreator.com/h16fUMXsAIMWcXSB3wJ2v5ZxUrk1/H4dAHa5aQfuUkThnyWH-rQ>

And the full version is available for only £2.00

Collective Worship Resources

From Assemblies for all

Looking for assembly ideas? We've got you covered!

Explore our vast library of assemblies for different topics and age groups. Visit assembliesforall.org.uk to

ignite imagination, stimulate curiosity, and encourage active participation in inspiring discussions.



Picture News 🍏 Welcome back from all of us at Picture News! 🍏

We've produced a free welcome-back assembly pack - great for your first week: [download here](#). Plus, free back-to-school training open to all schools, [book here](#). Picture News uses a weekly engaging image, and short, question-led activities to support oracy, critical thinking and SMSC across key stages, helping settle pupils and spark whole-school conversations as the new term begins.