

North Yorkshire SACRE Newsletter

School Improvement and Early Years' Service January 2025

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

Welcome to the Spring 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 Primary and Secondary RE Leads

This year NYC 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) Spring Network – focus on Early Years RE	06/03/2025	SI-0325-T001	09:30:00	11:30:00
Primary Religious Education (RE) Spring Network – focus on Early Years RE	19/03/2025	SI-0325-T002	13:30:00	15:30:00
Primary Religious Education (RE) Summer Network – focus on Assessment	05/06/2025	SI-0625-T003	09:30:00	11:30:00
Primary Religious Education (RE) Summer Network – focus on Assessment	09/06/2025	SI-0625-T004	13:30:00	15:30:00
Primary RE Leadership Course – for new RE leads and those wanting a refresher	Date	Online Code	Start	End
Session 1	06/02/2025	SI-0225-T003	09:30	12.00
Session 2	26/02/2025	SI-0225-T003	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 Culham St Gabriels – Elearning and RE

In this resource spotlight we focus on four eLearning providers.

- What are your current professional development needs?
- Do you know the professional development needs of your colleagues?
- How are you supporting early career teachers?
- Who will flexible eLearning suit?
- How will you share what has been learnt from this learning?



[RE Today E Learning zone](#)

RE Today have a new e-learning platform with both paid and free content. For those in England, there is an excellent free course on the OFSTED Subject report, Deep and meaningful?

[Openlearn from the Open University](#)

Perhaps look at the short course on Why not world religions? Or an education in religion and worldviews. If you have a little more time you may want to explore the longer philosophy of religion course. Note Openlearn Cymru has courses in the Welsh language.

[The University of Edinburgh](#)

Another longer offering comes from The University of Edinburgh, the free philosophy, science and religion course is made up of 3 courses which you can progress through at your own pace. It is an opportunity to explore contemporary debates at the intersection of Philosophy, Science and Religion.

[Culham St Gabriel's short courses](#)

As people have been discussing their responses to the Curriculum and Assessment Review in England you might have heard mention of the National Content Standard. We have a short course, approximately 30 minutes, The National Content Standard for RE in England: A very brief introduction, which will help you find out more.

Alternatively, do you have colleagues new to teaching in your primary school if so our three-part Primary Beginning teacher course maybe ideal for them focussing on introducing a religion and worldviews approach, teaching and learning and the framing of subject knowledge.

News from Understanding Humanism



1) Free resources from Understanding Humanism

Our comprehensive [Understanding Humanism](#) website provides a wealth of FREE resources for EYFS to KS5, to support teaching and development of units of work about [humanism](#). On the site you will find information sheets, presentations, activities, films, and humanist

perspectives on a wide range of questions and topics. These are designed for classroom teachers but, along with the [core knowledge guide](#), will also be helpful to SACREs and Agreed Syllabus

Conferences working to revise their syllabus, create age appropriate content, or units of work. Our handy [guide](#) helps users to get started.



2) Free school speaker visits

Did you know that teachers can [book a FREE visit](#) (online or in person) from one of our trained **school speakers**? Our speakers can talk about humanism to a class, year group or school assembly, and answer pupils' questions. This could be a general introduction to humanism or planned around a specific topic. For example, if teachers are planning lessons, assemblies, or events for [Darwin Day](#), on **12 February**, our school speakers can share perspectives on human beings' relationship with the natural world, why humanists celebrate Darwin's work, and what it means for our understanding of ourselves.

3) Teacher training

Teachers can also sign up for one of our upcoming [CPD webinars](#), taking place on **Tuesday 28 January** or **Wednesday 12 March** (primary) and **Thursday 30 January** or **Thursday 13 March** (secondary). These will deepen teachers' subject knowledge of humanism, and support them with practical ideas for the classroom.

NATRE Spirited Arts Competition 2025



Join schools worldwide participating in Spirited Arts competition a fantastic cross-curricular opportunity to further enhance RE at your school by enabling deep thinking and vibrant creativity.

We welcome entries in (almost) any art form your pupils can think of, including:

- Art (painting, drawing, sketching, etc)
- Poetry
- Photography
- Dance
- Music
- Drama
- Sculpture

Send in your entries by 31st July 2025! Choose up to 10. We welcome entries from children and young people aged 3 to 19. These can be by individuals, groups, whole classes or even a whole school creating something together.

Students have flexibility in creating their entries:

- Individual, in pairs, or group.
- Entire classes, year groups, or whole school can collaborate.
- Entire community groups.

Find out more [Enter Spirited Arts | NATRE Competition](#)

The Woolf Institute



The Woolf Institute is an independent charity based in Cambridge, working on interfaith relations and religion in society through research, education, and public engagement. We provide a range of free options for schools, including: flexible resources for secondary religious education arising from Woolf Institute research, including teacher guides, videos, and lesson plans; Lunchtime Online sessions where schools can invite a Woolf Institute staff or student researcher to meet a group of students online during lunchtime to discuss their research and studies or career. Please email publicengagement@woolf.cam.ac.uk for more information or visit our website [here](#).

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.



Jewish Living Online

'Jewish Living Online' (JLO) is a comprehensive, authentic and engaging resource for secondary schools in England – created by The Board of Deputies of British Jews.

JLO is primarily aimed at KS3 pupils and aims to make the lives of teachers easier! It requires little planning or subject knowledge, as well as being modular and flexible - allowing RE, History and Citizenship teachers to pick and choose sections which are useful to support the schemes of work they already have in place. It provides simply laid out information, varied multimedia content (including authentic, lived experience and opinions of Jews living in Britain today), discussion and critical thinking questions, as well as discussion questions and quizzes for assessment.

Content of JLO includes: Who are the Jewish people?, Torah and Tanah, Festivals and holy days, The Jewish lifecycle, History of the Jews in Britain, Israel, Antisemitism as well as a glossary and section of further recommended resources.

To view or use JLO, go to: jlo.org.uk

To see the JLO marketing video go to: <https://bod.org.uk/bod-news/board-of-deputies-launches-jewish-living-online-a-free-digital-education-resource-for-secondary-schools/>

For further information or to register your school to use JLO, email: jlo@bod.org.uk



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 Group, 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.

