

North Yorkshire SACRE Newsletter

School Improvement and Early Years' Service May 2026

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

Welcome to the summer 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 directorate within 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 for the remainder of this 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>

Changes to the Professional RE Adviser for maintained schools in North Yorkshire in 2026-27

This edition of the newsletter will mark the final newsletter with Olivia Seymour in her role as the Professional RE Adviser for North Yorkshire SACRE.

Olivia has supported North Yorkshire SACRE, either in her role as the Professional RE Adviser or preceding this as a SACRE member, for over 15 years. Throughout this time, North Yorkshire SACRE has benefitted hugely from her depth of knowledge, sound advice and high-quality training for schools.

North Yorkshire SACRE & LA officers would like to offer a sincere thank you to Olivia for all she has brought to SACRE and North Yorkshire schools and wish her well for the future.

Stuart Anslow will take on the role of the Professional RE Adviser for North Yorkshire SACRE from September 2026-27. Contact details will remain the same.

RE Subject Networks and training for RE Lead – Looking ahead to next year...

Next 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 RE Network – Autumn Term 2026	10/11/2026	SI-1126-TO11	13:30	15:00
Primary RE Network – Spring Term 2027	02/03/2027	SI-0327-TO21	13:30	15:00
Primary RE Network – Summer Term 2027	08/06/2027	SI-0627-TO15	13:30	15:00

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

Jewish Culture Month

Jewish Culture Month (JCM) launches this May (16th May-16th June 2026)

A month-long celebration of Jewish heritage, creativity and culture offering a valuable opportunity for Religious Education (RE) teachers, in both primary and secondary schools, to deepen pupils' understanding of Judaism as a lived, diverse and dynamic tradition.

JCM invites schools to engage meaningfully with Jewish life, culture and identity, enriching curricula while fostering respect, curiosity and community cohesion. The festival, which takes place during the Jewish month of Sivan, highlights themes of learning, heritage and celebration. For RE teachers, this aligns closely with curriculum aims exploring religions as lived experiences, developing religious literacy and encouraging pupils to reflect on diversity within and across traditions.

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There will be activities taking place across the UK, in community spaces, cultural centres and other sites and spaces.



Visit www.jewishculturemonth.org.uk for...

- Jewish Culture Month resource hub, which provides a wide range of curated materials including videos, podcasts, websites and book recommendations. These resources, which cover both historical context and contemporary Jewish life, can be adapted for different key stages, supporting younger pupils in exploring festivals and traditions while enabling older students to engage with more complex questions about identity and belief.
- Ideas on different activities that can take place within your own school.
- For secondary schools, Jewish Living Online is a free digital resource that enables students to explore Jewish beliefs, practices and culture independently or in class. It is particularly useful for supporting GCSE and A-level study, as well as encouraging independent learning.
- Beyond the classroom, visits to synagogues, museums and heritage centres offer valuable insight into Jewish life in the UK – see the event listings for all the things your school community might enjoy!
- Further information on the Jewish Living Exhibition Experience – and how you can book it for your school!

What's New From Understanding Humanism



World Humanist Day 21st June 2026

It is World Humanist Day on 21st June. Why not check out the resources on the Understanding Humanism website. Humanist UK also have free, trained, and experienced volunteers that can help you and your school. Using their life experience and knowledge, school speakers can bring a personal dimension to young people's study of humanism that goes 'beyond the textbook'. They offer a range of services and will fit around your needs and requirements.

They offer both in-person and virtual visits. [School speakers » Understanding Humanism](#)

GCSE support and resources

Understanding Humanism have written a new resource developed in discussion with the exam boards to support including Humanist perspectives at GCSE.

The [guidance](#) is designed to enable teachers to support their students with including humanist perspectives in their GCSE answers. It includes an approach to answering questions that ask for, or offer inclusion of, a humanist (or non-religious) perspective, as well as information about where further helpful resources on the humanist approach to life can be found. Understanding Humanism consulted with the different exam boards in the development of this guide.

[humanist perspectives](#) provide humanist responses to contemporary ethical debates covered in the RS GCSE specifications. You'll find handouts for the classroom, video interviews, and links to further information.

They also have a selection of [real humanists](#) providing a perspective on some of the topics of debate included in the Religious Studies GCSE. Students should note that no individual humanist can represent all humanists. However, by comparing these personal perspectives to the key beliefs and values that inform humanist ethical decision making (referenced in the [guidance](#)), students will be supported to provide a humanist view within their answers to exam questions.

An interesting read – New PEW Research Report



Do you need to believe in God to be moral and have good values? Views on this question vary widely around the world, according to a 2025 Pew Research Center survey. The report explores whether adults in

25 surveyed countries think belief in God is necessary to be moral and how those views have changed over time. You can read the report here: [Is belief in God needed to be moral? Many in US, other countries say no | Pew Research Center](#)

New on the RE Hubs website

Jane Yates RE Hubs Lead for the NorthWest has written on Nobody Stands Nowhere: Stories from the Real Lives of Religious and Non-Religious People Transform RE

You can read the blog here: [Blogs](#)



Harry Clark Goes to Rome

During the Easter period, the BBC offered several educational resources for Religious Education teachers, including short segments suitable for classroom use. Viewers can catch up on "[Harry Clark Goes to Rome](#)" and listen to his insightful interview with Fiona Moss from Culham St Gabriels [here](#). CCTV, the creators of "Harry Clark Goes to Rome," are also responsible for "[Pilgrimage: On the Road to Iona](#)."

This three-part series features visits to a modern monastic community, a reform synagogue, and a Muslim prayer room. Louisa Jane Smith interviews pilgrims on the [RE Podcast](#), providing further educational perspectives.



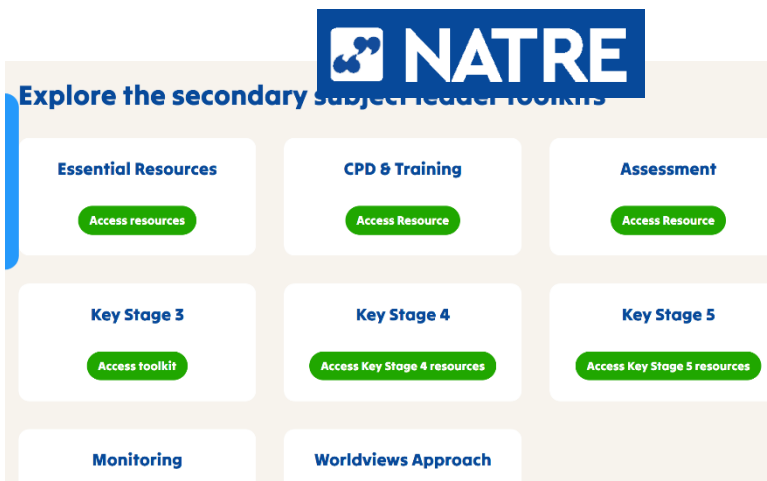
News from NATRE

Subject Leader Toolkits

NATRE have launched a new subject leader toolkit for secondary RE leads: a comprehensive collection of resources designed to support secondary school subject leaders in developing and enhancing the teaching and leadership of Religious Education.

This toolkit provides a wealth of guidance, practical strategies, and key resources to support Secondary RE Leads in leading Religious Education / Religion and Worldviews with confidence. Whether it is refining the curriculum, supporting staff development, or advocating for the subject's value, you'll find useful documents, research, and best-practice examples to strengthen subject leadership.

All materials in this toolkit have been compiled by experienced secondary members of the NATRE Executive and advisers from RE Today, ensuring high-quality, relevant, and practical support for subject leaders. You can access the toolkit here: <https://natre.org.uk/secondary-subject-leader/>



Primary RE Lead? don't forget there is also already a primary RE subject leader page here: <https://natre.org.uk/primary-re-curriculum/primary-subject-leader/>

RE ChatUK

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](https://twitter.com/NATREupdate) on Twitter, and the hashtag #REChatUK. An overview of the dates and themes for the rest of 2026 are below.

April 20th 2026	Outdoor RE
May 11th 2026	Case studies
June 1st 2026	PP & SEND in RE
July 6th 2026	Yearly Round up
September 7th 2026	ITE in RE
October 5th 2026	Assessment in RE
November 2nd 2026	Teaching to the Top
December 7th 2026	Adaptive Teaching

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.

