

North Yorkshire SACRE Newsletter

School Improvement and Early Years' Team January 2026

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

RE Subject Networks and training for 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	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.

21 April 2026 - 4.00 - 5.30 PM joined by Dr Vanessa Ogden to talk about the Curriculum and Assessment review report and what it means for RE

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!](#)

RE Hubs Website - Tackling Issues in RE

In our [free resources section](#) you will find links to a number of resources and websites that seek to help teachers navigate sensitive issues in the classroom. A controversial issue is often that might cause children and young people to get upset and argue, so this pod centres around advice from a range of different places and people around how to deal well with potential disagreements and arguments in the classroom. It also provides links for tackling issues around religious bullying, Race, Islamophobia and antisemitism. Handling these issues in RE as teachers it is about finding and using research evidenced based approaches to help our pupils learn about difference and diversity.

Addressing extremism through the classroom - UCL	Anti-bullying & belief toolkit	Anti-racism and mental health in schools - Anna Freud	Anti-racist RE
Anti-racist RE - NATRE	BAMEed website	Building resilience project - ACT	Bullying and Belief Toolkit
Challenging Religious and	Courageous Conversations	Democracy, protest and	Educate Against Hate

New Educational Faith films

We are delighted to share with you our new set of educational faith films, available on our Youtube channel. Led by groups of faith representatives, these films can be used to support the teaching of faith and belief drawing on a wealth of local lived experience. Utilise these in the classroom, during assemblies and in conjunction with your RE syllabus to enrich students RE experience and knowledge.

Hindu Dharma

Exploring: Samara and Karma, Deities and Prayers. The origin of Hindu Dharma and many more interesting areas.

Islam

Exploring: Worshipping Allah, The Mosque and Prayer. The Culture and traditions and many more interesting areas.

Judaism

Exploring: Bar Mitzvah, Kippah and Talith, The Torah, Daily and Sabbath prayer and many more interesting areas.

Sikhi

Exploring: Guru Granth Sahib, Langar, Guru Nanak's story, Khanda, and many more interesting areas.

<https://penninelearning.com/videos/>

Coming soon - new films on Humanism

New Educational Faith Films

A new set of educational faith films has been developed in partnership with Leeds SACRE, Leeds Hindu Forum, the Leeds Muslim community and the Westhill Trust.

Led by groups of faith representatives, these films can be used to support the teaching of faith and belief drawing on a wealth of local lived experience. Utilize these in the classroom, during assemblies and in conjunction with your RE syllabus to enrich students RE experience and knowledge. Coming soon – new films on Humanism.

You can find the videos here: <https://www.penninelearning.com/videos>

Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) will take place on 27 January, this year the theme is 'bridging generations'. It is a commemoration the six million Jewish men, women and children murdered during the Holocaust and the millions more murdered under Nazi persecution, as well as in other countries more recently.

[Read this blog](#) from Culham St Gabriels CEO Kathryn Wright as you consider how you might mark this day in school or more individually. The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust have created a whole series of [new resources](#) to help you teach pupils more about the Holocaust and plan your own HMD activities and commemorations.

What's New From Understanding Humanism



[Understanding Humanism articles](#) – check out new additions to this collection of inspiring reflections on what it means to have a humanist approach to life, such as '[Humanists and community](#)', humanist subject knowledge, like '[Humanism: a global history](#)' and teaching about humanism in the classroom, in '[Including humanist views at GCSE](#)'.

Online course! Our [Introducing humanism: non-religious approaches to life](#) course with Sandi Toksvig. 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!

Secondary RE – something to listen to

The RE Podcast is the first dedicated Religious Education podcast for students and teachers. Each episode offers stories, statistics, religious teaching, and opinions on a specific topic. The podcast also interviews people from some of the world's major religions (and perhaps even those that have opinions on religion, without being religious themselves). If you are student or teacher, you will find worksheets along with each episode, and they love to hear your comments, too.



New to RE?

New to RE? Developing Subject Knowledge

12 January, 2026

Share

Share

New to RE? Developing Subject Knowledge

Read this [really useful blog](#) from Karen Steele *New to RE? Developing Subject Knowledge*. It has some really great suggestions for those training to teach, teachers with other specialisms and anyone teaching RE.

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.

