

North Yorkshire SACRE Newsletter

School Improvement and Early Years' Service May 2025

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 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

Next academic 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. All the dates are now live so you can get things in your diary and book ahead.



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

Annual SACRE Survey of North Yorkshire Schools



This survey supports North Yorkshire SACRE in ensuring that the locally agreed RE syllabus is fit for purpose and supports SACRE's responsibility for monitoring standards in RE. A summary of the findings from the survey will be shared with SACRE members and will form part of North Yorkshire SACRE's Annual Report. **All North Yorkshire schools following the locally agreed syllabus are requested to complete this survey** which should take no more than 5 minutes to complete. You can complete the survey here <https://online1.snapsurveys.com/a6a7au>

News from Culham St Gabriels – Primary Learning Focus Week

As part of #PrimaryFocusWeek in May Culham St Gabriels shared a specially curated list of films and TV programmes selected by Fiona Moss to support Religion and Worldviews education in the primary phase (also useful for secondary!).



This resource is split into two sections:

- Films and TV for pupils – to enrich classroom learning
- Films and TV for teachers – ideal for subject knowledge and CPD

Whether you're planning a lesson or developing your own understanding, these carefully chosen visual resources are designed to support meaningful, inclusive RE.

Culham St Gabriels also launched a new religion and worldviews resource - a list of websites curated by Fiona Moss and designed specifically for those teaching in the primary phase. (Although secondary teachers will find it useful too!)

<https://www.reonline.org.uk/useful-websites-resources-and-films-for-primary-re/>
This page brings together:

- ✓ Religion and worldviews organisations
- ✓ Subject knowledge sources
- ✓ Classroom-ready resources
- ✓ Resources from religion and worldviews communities and more!

Everything is downloadable — by section or as a complete pack — making it easy to access what you need. Whether you're new to RE or deepening your practice, these high-quality, inclusive resources are here to support and inspire.

New Blog: Opening a Gateway to the World – The Role of Governing Boards as Champions of Religious Education

Deputy Chief Executive of the National Governance Association - challenges governors and trustees to re-evaluate how they view RE in primary education. Too often, RE is treated as a statutory requirement rather than a vital subject that helps shape pupils' understanding of the world. In this blog, Sam argues that RE is not just about compliance it's about equipping children with the ability to navigate difference, ask profound questions, and develop a balanced worldview in an increasingly polarised society.

Sam explores:

- Why RE belongs at the heart of a values-led curriculum
- How governing boards can champion equity through RE
- The danger of RE being marginalised in strategic conversations
- How the subject connects to wider aims around critical thinking, social cohesion and cultural literacy

You can read this blog and some other blogs from the Primary RE Focus week here [Blog - RE:ONLINE](#)

News from Understanding Humanism: World Humanism Day 21st June

This event provides an excellent opportunity for young people to learn more about humanism and its principles. We'd like to let your SACRE know about three ways that Understanding Humanism can support teachers exploring non-religious worldviews as part of an inclusive RE.



Professional development opportunities

Understanding Humanism CPD webinars:

Primary: Tuesday 24 June, 16:00-17:30

Secondary: Thursday 26 June, 16:00-17:30

[Find out more and register to attend](#)

FREE school speaker visits

[Book a FREE visit](#) 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. Why not book a visit for World Humanist Day?

Extensive FREE resources

[Explore our website](#) for a wealth of FREE resources for EYFS to KS5 to support teaching about [humanism](#).



Looking for book ideas for RE?

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.

Reminder: 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](#)

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.



Topical issues

Christian Aid has a range of 'ready to go' assemblies on topics such as Climate Change and Sustainability

[Climate change and sustainability assemblies | Christian Aid](#)