

# North Yorkshire SACRE Newsletter

School Improvement and Early Years' Service

October 2023

**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](mailto: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 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



<b>Termly Primary RE Networks</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Online Code</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>
Primary Religious Education (RE) Autumn Network Subject knowledge focus: Judaism	09/11//2023	SI-1123-T017	09:30	11:30
Primary Religious Education (RE) Autumn Network Subject knowledge focus: Judaism	13/11/2023	SI-1123-T018	13:30	15:30
Primary Religious Education (RE) Spring Network Subject knowledge focus: Engaging with text and story in RE	06/03/2024	SI-0324-T010	09:30	11:30
Primary Religious Education (RE) Spring Network Subject knowledge focus: Engaging with text and story in RE	19/03/2024	SI-0324-T011	13:30	15:30
Primary Religious Education (RE) Summer Network Subject knowledge focus: Implementing the NYC Agreed Syllabus	01/07/2024	SI-0724-T002	13:30	15:30
Primary Religious Education (RE) Summer Network Subject knowledge focus: Implementing the NYC Agreed Syllabus	04/07/2024	SI-0724-T003	09:30	11:30
<b>Primary RE Leadership Course</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Online Code</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>
Session 1	07/02/2024	SI-0224-T002	09:30	12.00
Session 2	26/02/2024	SI-0224-T002	13:00	15:30
<b>Secondary RE curriculum workshop</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Online Code</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>
A focus on curriculum intent and implementation, the Ofsted research review, curriculum progression and learning from Ofsted deep dives.	26/10//2023	SI-1023-T004	16.00	18.00

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

If any assistance with this is required you can contact [nyes@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:Schoolimprovementservice@northyorks.gov.uk) or telephone 01609 79 88 64.

## Locally Agreed Syllabus Launch – Save the Date

SACRE has completed its Agreed Syllabus Conference and made a decision to update the current syllabus for launch in the summer term of 2024. The syllabus will be launched on **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2024** with a full day training event in Harrogate led by North Yorkshire SACRE in partnership with national RE advisers Fiona Moss and Stephen Pett. Please put the date in your diary and look out for booking information later this term.

The RE-Hubs website is a freely available one-stop shop that seeks to help teachers and members of the Religious Education / Religion, Values & Ethics / Religion & Worldviews (RE/RVE/R&W) community find resources, CPD, inspiration, visitors and where to go out on visits and events. The website is being kept up to date by the RE Hubs team, which is made up of RE teachers and experts from across England and Wales, specialising in their local area. The newly developed website has for the first time a calendar for England & Wales for all stakeholders to advertise events taking place. Schools will be able to locate and contact [school speakers and places of interest](#) for school's visits in local your areas, which have gone through training run by the RE hubs team each month receiving a kite-mark from the RE-Hubs project.

For the first time, in one central place, a teacher can find local group meetings that are taking place in their area and make contact with those who run these groups. Finally, the '[Upskill](#)' tab has a wealth of free resources and contacts useful to all those in the RE/RVE/R&W eco-system from the latest news and blogs to podcasts – the website links you directly.

Visit the [RE Hubs website](#) to explore what is on offer locally and nationally. Our regional RE Hubs leads is [Olivia Seymour](#) (Yorkshire and Humber)



### News from NATRE: Strictly RE Conference 2024



#### Strictly RE @Home 2024



Hosted by NATRE, Strictly RE has become a key date in the diary for the RE community. With 400+ people taking part in over 25 online sessions, this

event is a great place for RE professionals to come together to share ideas, gain new knowledge and further boost your confidence when teaching RE, as you will leave armed with lots of downloads, presentations and ready-to-use resources in the classroom. There will be something for everyone, from Headteachers and Senior Leaders to Primary Teachers and ITEs. Find out more here: <https://www.natre.org.uk/courses-events/strictlyRE-2024/>

## News from Culham St Gabriels



### FREE Textbook on Shia Islam

Kindly given to all our users by the al- Khoei Foundation, you are invited to download this [FREE textbook](#) on key aspects of Shia beliefs, practices and history. Although written to support the GCSE, it will be of use to all teachers wishing to understand Shia Islam.

### Teaching Shia Islam Blog

Zameer Hussain offers tips and ideas for anyone teaching [Shia Islam](#), as well as reflections on co-authoring the GCSE textbook on Shia Islam with scholar Dr Ahab Bdaiwi.

### Lived Religious Beliefs of Hindu Teenagers

How do Hindu teenagers in the UK experience their religion at home and school? As you will see, there is a difference in experience, not all of it positive. Read this important piece of research to gain an insight. This is highly relevant to how Hindu Dharma is presented in the RE classroom.

<https://www.reonline.org.uk/research/the-lived-religious-beliefs-and-experiences-of-english-hindu-teenagers-at-home-and-at-school/>

## Where do we come from? New animation from Humanists UK



'Life is like a piece of string. It has a beginning and an end. We don't get much say about that. But we can make choices about the bit in between. We have the freedom to shape our own lives.'

Voiced by scientist and broadcaster Professor Alice Roberts, this short animation focuses on the humanist approach to life and the importance humanists place on freedom,

responsibility, and connections.

This is the latest resource from [Understanding Humanism](#), a website dedicated to providing teachers with everything they need to teach about humanism.

A resource called Freedom, Responsibility, and Connections provides activities linked to the animation.

Watch the [animation](#)

Download the [lesson plan](#) and [presentation](#).

## Sikhi and RE in Britain - RE Teacher Survey

Dr Jasjit Singh, Associate Professor at Leeds University, is interested in gathering the views of RE teachers in English schools who are interested in teaching Sikhi.

Please [contribute to this survey](#) and share with RE colleagues. Your answers will be completely confidential.

## New Early Years RE Resources

Early years  
**Religions, festivals and celebrations**  
Part of Understanding the World

**What do you like celebrating?**  
Find out what George and Micah's families like celebrating.

**What is Easter?**  
Learn about the Christian festival of Easter and how some families celebrate.

**Christianity: Make a Christmas angel**  
Learn about the Christian festival of Christmas.

**What is Eid ul-Adha?**  
Learn about the Islamic festival of Eid ul-Adha and find out how families celebrate.

**Islam: Make a Ramadan lantern**

**What is Diwali?**

**Hinduism: Colour by numbers Ranaoli pattern**

**What is Vaisakhi?**

The BBC has launched some new EYFS resources for RE. Find out more [here](#)

## Jerusalem Trust Grants for Schools



The Jerusalem Trust's Small Grants to Schools Scheme supports the teaching of Christianity within Religious Education. The scheme operates by providing schools with grants of up to £600 to purchase resources for use in RE lessons.

The scheme is open to state funded schools in England and Wales.  
Further information is here: <https://www.regrants.org.uk/faqs/>  
And you can apply here: <https://www.regrants.org.uk/apply/>

## An introduction to Judaism and Sikhi: new film series available to schools



A series of short films for Religious Education, funded by Westhill and West Yorkshire SACREs, has been completed. There are two sets of films in the series, one set filmed at a synagogue and the other at a Gurdwara, both filmed in Leeds by a local company.

The films were initiated by Leeds SACRE and are intended to enable pupils to hear and learn from faith communities, even if they are not able to visit faith centres in person. The films will also provide useful preparation and follow-up for those schools who include visits as part of their RE curriculum.

The films are freely available to be used in schools. They can be accessed on the Pennine Learning website [here](#).

## Festival Calendar

Search for religious festivals by religion and/or month here: <https://www.reonline.org.uk/festival-calendar/>



## Primary RE

### If you listen to one thing this week....

RE Podcast – the one about assessment

If you are a primary RE teacher or know someone who is, then this chat with some RE practitioners is for you! Gillian Georgiou gathered a team of RE Primary specialists to look at how we teach substantive and disciplinary knowledge in primary schools. Their piece of 'active research' will be vital to any primary school and this chat just skims the surface. We look at assessment, curriculum and progress! Listen [here](#)



## Secondary RE

### If you listen to one thing this week....

RE Podcast – the one about exam success

In this podcast Louisa welcomes back her Head of Department, Pete Bowdery. They talk about what they have achieved with their GCSE classes under his leadership and discuss their sequencing choices, pedagogy, assessment model, exam question success, model answers, mock writing and feedback methods.



## Collective Worship Resources



Unicef offer a package of free assembly resources focusing on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and linking them to events and days of recognition.

[Primary resources](#)

[Secondary resources](#)