

North Yorkshire County Council

North Yorkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) –

13th December 2022 Update from Professional RE Adviser

1.0 Purpose of the Report

To inform Members on work undertaken by the Professional RE Adviser since the last SACRE meeting.

To provide members with local and national updates on RE

2.0 Training

2.1 The Professional Practice Groups for Primary for 2022-23 are focussing on subject knowledge for a range Religion and Worldviews across the year. The first Primary networks of the year took place in November and 28 attended. This is up from 12 last term and a significant increase in attendance from networks last academic year. The focus was on considering substantive knowledge and knowledge progression for Islam and Humanism and included exploring a range of practical resources to support teacher subject knowledge and classroom teaching.

2.2 Feedback from attendees included:

- I think my colleagues would really like this as a guide
- Yes and very handy to refer back to.
- This would be useful to pass onto my staff
- This is so helpful thankyou
- My colleague and I were just saying how we find there is so much vocab associated with religion that we need to be decisive about the key ones we highlight and use. We are conscious of not overwhelming children
- Thank you. It is really helpful
- It saves teachers just simply 'googling' and getting misconceptions
- Thank you Olivia and thank you so much for the pre meeting technical support! Off the back of your network, I have ordered two books, proposed some staff meeting time to review our long term RE planning and added some key vocab to our long term overview with a view to discussing with staff at the next available time – it was just what I needed!
- Thank you - very helpful, especially the resource links
- Thanks, lots of useful information to take back to school
- It's been really helpful; lots of practical ideas to take back to school. Thank you.
- Today has been extremely helpful and also on leadership course.
- We wrote our own progression documents last year..... it's a big job but we really know our RE curriculum now!!! Helps teachers to incorporate retrieval practice too as they know what came before
- Please could you make a note of those questions about the specific questions we can address as a school? I am new to this subject role, and those questions are very useful in helping me understand and re evaluate
- I think the concept light/concept deep is something we have been grappling with - making sure children do get a good breadth, particularly of worldviews beyond their own experience, but without sacrificing depth.
- Thank you very much Olivia, very useful and informative.
- Thanks so much Olivia very useful as always

2.3 The subject leader course will run again in the spring term 2023.

3.0 SACRE Newsletter

3.1 The autumn term newsletter went out to schools in October. A copy is attached for SACRE members. I would be grateful for volunteers to write a short introduction to themselves and the group they represent for the next newsletter.

4.0 Cross-party calls for RE National Plan after Westminster debate London, 01 November 2022:

4.1 A Westminster Hall debate has heard cross-party calls of support for religious education, as MPs urged the Government to do more to protect the subject they considered vital for young people in modern Britain.

4.2 The debate, entitled 'Religious Education in Modern Britain,' was called by Conservative MP Martin Vickers who cited concerns about the number of schools fulfilling their statutory responsibility to teach the subject. At year 11, one school in five reported offering zero hours of RE.

4.3 During the hour and a half debate, members across the House spoke on the subject's importance for fostering mutual understanding in society, as well as the world beyond Britain where 70% have a religious affiliation.

4.4 Supportive Labour MP Luke Pollard spoke in support of the National Association of Teachers of RE and commended the subject's ability to prepare students to be critical and curious about ideas in the world. He then went on to urge all parties to make a manifesto commitment to increase the provision for the subject in every school.

4.5 Shadow Minister for Schools, Stephen Morgan expressed concerns over specialist RE teacher recruitment, citing a National Foundation for Educational Research report that recruitment was 20% below its target for 2022. He questioned Government support for the subject, and called for the implementation of a National Plan for RE.

4.6 Among those from the Conservative benches who spoke up strongly for the subject were the PM's Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief, Fiona Bruce MP, as well as former RE teacher, Jonathan Gullis MP.

4.7 Closing the debate, Martin Vickers said the debate had expressed a 'considerable concern' over the teaching of RE in modern Britain, and requested the Department for Education be 'more robust' in ensuring schools were following their statutory requirement for RE. He had previously invited the Minister to meet with him and the Religious Education Policy Unit, particularly with regards to reinstating the teacher training bursary for RE.

[Hear some sound bits from the debate:](#)

[Luke Pollard, MP](#)

[Stephen Morgan, MP](#)

5.0 What do primary teachers say about RE in their schools?

5.1 The results and findings from the 2022 NATRE Primary survey are in. Over 500 teachers were surveyed during the summer of 2022 to gather their views on RE in their schools.



5.2 Key highlights from the survey show:

- The number of schools where pupils are withdrawn is increasing. 23% of schools report some withdrawal from RE (18.6% in 2020, and 16% in 2018).
- 96% of schools report that they make provision for RE for all pupils in their school.
- More than 40% of teachers report that they received between 0 and 3 hours of training to teach RE in their initial teacher training. 20% received none.

- 63% of schools say some RE is being delivered by adults other than teachers (TAs/HLTAs etc.)
- In 28% of schools, RE receives no budget or no set budget and is 30% less funding than foundation subjects.
- In just under a third of schools (31.5%) insufficient time (less than 60 mins) is being spent on the teaching of RE to ensure that pupils make good progress.
- In 80% of schools, subject leaders receive some training but 25% of other teachers receive none and report reduced confidence.
- In over 30% of schools, time for RE increased and in 30% of these, Ofsted has cited as the main reason: inspection comments, the Framework, or the Research Review in RE.

[Read the full report here](#)

6.0 Briefing: Impact of census results on religion and belief

6.1 The [2021 census for England and Wales](#) revealed that 42 per cent of the population describe themselves as Christian, a drop of 13 per cent since the last census in 2011. Non religion is the second largest grouping at 37 per cent, while other religious groups report a rise. In this Religion Media Centre [briefing](#), our panel analysed the results. What accounts for the decline in Christianity, what does non religion actually mean, and why are other faith groups better at passing on their faith to the next generation than the church. Ruth Peacock chaired this discussion with panellists:

- [Professor Linda Woodhead](#), F. D. Maurice professor and head of the department of theology and religious studies at King's College London
- Dr Kathryn Wright Chief Executive Officer of [Culham St Gabriel's Trust](#)
- [Dr Jasjit Singh](#), Associate Professor at University of Leeds in the School of Philosophy, Religion and the History of Science
- [Dr Azim Ahmed](#), deputy head of Islam UK Centre in Cardiff and secretary general of the Muslim Council of Wales
- [The Bishop of Burnley](#), Philip North, also acting bishop of Blackburn
- [Fr Christopher Jamison](#), Abbot President of the English Benedictine Congregation

Members can access a copy of the recording here: <https://religionmediacentre.org.uk/rmc-briefings/briefing-impact-of-census-results-on-religion-and-belief/>

7.0 Update on Professional RE Adviser Role

7.1 I would like to inform members that I will be finishing my role following our June 2023 meeting due to relocation to Northern Ireland. I would like to take this opportunity to thank members for their support and valuable contributions to the work we do to support schools in North Yorkshire and wish SACRE the very best as it develops the new agreed syllabus and builds on the work already achieved.

Olivia Seymour
Professional Adviser to North Yorkshire SACRE
County Hall, Northallerton

18/11//2022

Report Author: Olivia Seymour

Background documents relied upon in the preparation of this report - None

North Yorkshire SACRE Newsletter

School Improvement and Early Years' Service October 2022

PLEASE PASS ON TO YOUR RE SUBJECT LEADER

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 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 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 networks and courses are below

Title of event	Date	Online Code	Start	End
Primary Religious Education (RE) Autumn Network Subject knowledge focus: Islam and Humanism	10/11/2022	SI-1122-T002	09:30:00	11:30:00
Secondary Religious Education (RE) Autumn Network Ofsted focus: intent, implementation and impact.	15/11/2022	SI-1122-T004	16:00:00	18:00:00
Primary Religious Education (RE) Autumn Network Subject knowledge focus: Islam and Humanism	17/11/2022	SI-1122-T003	13:30:00	15:30:00
Primary Religious Education (RE) Spring Network Subject knowledge focus: Hinduism and Judaism	21/02/2023	SI-0223-T001	09:30:00	11:30:00
Secondary Religious Education (RE) Spring Network Engaging with text and developing writing in the RE classroom	21/02/2023	SI-0223-T002	16:00:00	18:00:00
Primary Religious Education (RE) Spring Network Subject knowledge focus: Hinduism and Judaism	01/03/2023	SI-0323-T001	13:30:00	15:30:00
Primary Religious Education (RE) Subject leadership course	09/03/2023 & 20/03/2023	SI-0323-T002	Day 1: 09:30:00 Day 2: 13:30:00	Day 1: 11:30:00 Day 2: 15:30:00
Primary Religious Education (RE) Summer Network Subject knowledge focus: Christianity and Sikhism	26/04/2023	SI-0423-T001	09:30:00	11:30:00
Primary Religious Education (RE) Summer Network Subject knowledge focus: Christianity and Sikhism	02/05/2023	SI-0523-T001	13:30:00	15:30:00

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

If you don't have an account with NYES please use the 'sign up' link in the top right of the webpage to request login details to book on training/events, existing customers can login to book with existing credentials. If any assistance with this 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 NATRE - Strictly RE 2023



Includes recordings and downloads of seminars!



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.

Strictly RE 2023 conference themes: Depth. Diversity. Abrahamic Worldviews

Choose from a range of seminars on a wide variety of topics and across all key stages including:

- Thinking out loud- joining the dots to help children think more critically (Primary)
- Introducing Philosophy and Philosophers to the Primary Classroom (Primary)
- Dharmic Lenses on Climate Crisis (Secondary)
- Creating a core RE Programme for KS4 (Secondary)
- Interfaith conversations - exploring creative projects that deepen pupils understanding in RE (Crossphase)
- Special RE (Crossphase)
- Championing and advocating for RE with parents (for SLT's)

NEW FOR 2023!

Sponsored by Professional REflection, look out for the following SLT seminars targeted towards Senior Leaders and Head Teachers: A7, B7 and C7, **PLUS** the twilight sessions on the lead up to the main event - see below for further details!

DOWNLOAD THE STRICTLY SESSION TIMETABLE FOR 2023

WHEN? Saturday 28 January AND Sunday 29 January 2023 (**PLUS additional weekday twilight seminars leading up to Strictly!**)

WHERE? Online, all from the comfort of your own home!

HOW MUCH? StrictlyRE tickets are **£135 each**, which includes downloadable handouts and presentations from all sessions PLUS access to all recordings after the event! Delegates will also receive a gift box of goodies, posted straight to your door!

EARLY BIRD OFFER: Book before 31st October 2022 to receive £15 off the cost of your strictly booking! Use discount code: STRICTLY15

Don't forget: By booking onto Strictly, you can attend the live sessions but you also get all the recordings and downloadable resources that are available from the weekend and weekday sessions that you didn't attend!

News from NATRE - Curriculum Symposium content: videos & resources



The curriculum symposium was a face to face-to-face event to develop curriculum planning and thinking skills, enabling teachers to be more confident in their understanding and development of high quality curricula and to enhance the understanding of processes involved in constructing high quality curricula. The symposium contributed to the start of a process for teachers considering curriculum design in terms of an education in religion and worldviews.

This section of the NATRE website is open to all to use and provides access to recordings of symposium presentations and ppts as well as a 'How to guide' to allow others to recreate their own curriculum symposium over a series a sessions across a term or a year or over a day spent together.

Spotlight on symposium resources:

During the Curriculum Symposium teachers heard from a range of speakers; Christian Counsell, Matthew Lane, Stephen Pett, Kathryn Wright – you can watch recordings of the talks and access the associate resources here.

Richard Kueh HMI also presented but due to his Ofsted role NATRE were unable to record his talk or share resources.

[Christine Counsell The Principles of curriculum design](#)
[Matthew Lane Change Management Hand-out and Notes](#)
[Matthew Lane Change management](#)
[Stephen Pett How to go about designing a curriculum](#)
[Kathryn Wright A multidisciplinary approach to curriculum design](#)

News from Culham St Gabriels - In Conversation Series Autumn 2022



This year we are planning monthly 'In Conversation' events on the third Monday of every month between October and April. We are hosting shorter sessions (40 mins) so it will be easier to catch up later with the audio files if you miss the live events.

This term we are discussing three very different themes. Please note times vary for each session.

Monday 17th October 4-4.40pm

In conversation with Professor David Clough and Scarlett Hayward

Theme: Christian ethics, animal welfare and the religion and worldviews classroom

Join us to hear how an academic research project on the Christian ethics of farmed animal welfare is working with a group of teachers and a pilot group of schools to develop new learning resources appropriate for different key stages.

Book [here](#)

Monday 21st November 7-7.40pm

In conversation with Professor Trevor Cooling and Dr Kate Christopher

Theme: Understanding Understanding! What do we mean by understanding?!

Trevor and Kate agree on many things, but they are not sure they agree on the nature of understanding! Come and hear them chat about their varying views in this philosophical discussion!

Book [here](#)

Monday 19th December 4.30-5.10pm

In Conversation with Dr Kevin O'Grady

Theme: Conceptualising religion and worldviews for the school

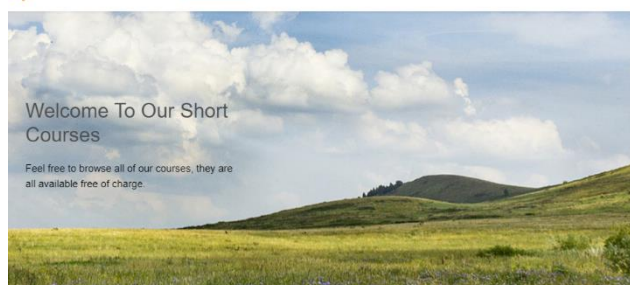
Kevin will share some of the key thinking behind his recently published book. He will explore opportunities, challenges and complexities of a transition from religious education in England and beyond.

Book [here](#)

News from Culham St Gabriels - New Culham St Gabriel's eLearning Platform

Culham St Gabriel's has for many years provided free CPD to teachers through the popular Teach:RE courses. Times have changed and they are delighted to announce the launch of a newly developed, FREE online platform for teachers' CPD. This is a supportive, stimulating and interactive way to access free, self-study courses, designed to introduce teachers (and other interested parties) to current thinking in Religion and Worldviews education.

 CULHAM ST GABRIELS Contact My Courses



Stay up to date, challenge yourself, discover new ideas and enhance your confidence and skills with Culham St Gabriel's Courses for teachers' CPD.

Why not try out one of the introductory courses:
An introduction to religion and worldviews
An introduction to curriculum
An introduction to research

Register today here: <https://courses.cstg.org.uk/>

Jewish Museum London: Inclusive Judaism Image Library

The Inclusive Judaism Image Library allows you to download photos from Britain's vibrantly diverse Jewish community directly to your classrooms. By downloading images for FREE, you can feel confident that you are teaching a representative, inclusive and authentic Judaism in your classrooms. All images have curriculum links to Jewish festivals, Life cycle events and Synagogue worship for Primary and Secondary schools, representing the UK's vibrantly diverse Jewish community.



<https://jewishmuseum.org.uk/schools/in-the-classroom/inclusive-judaism/imagelibrary/>

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

The RE Podcast: The One About World Views

The first episode of Season 7 of the RE Podcast is out! The theme is World Views. In the last few years we have heard the terms 'worldviews' and 'lenses' being used more and more frequently in terms of RE. But what do these words mean? Why is everyone talking about them and what does it mean for the future of RE?



Listen to the podcast here: <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/s7-e1-the-one-about-world-views/id1534213872?i=1000578123660>

A visit to a Mosque



This resource by BBC Bitesize is full of interesting facts about a visit to a Mosque including also engaging animated videos for KS1 pupils.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zj3d7ty/articles/zfwphcw>

Festival Calendar

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

