

North Yorkshire County Council

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

March 2023

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 spring term primary networks of the year took place in February and March and 37 attended. There continues to be a significant increase in attendance from networks last academic year. The focus was on considering substantive knowledge and knowledge progression for Hinduism and Judaism and included exploring a range of practical resources to support teacher subject knowledge and classroom teaching.

2.2 Feedback from attendees included

- We think these look really useful but wondered if there are any for mixed age classes?
- Very useful thanks - will definitely share those slides with EYFS teacher.
- Great suggestions for Early Years resources as this is something we can improve on- especially to encourage more depth
- Useful info particularly the resources and links
- Diversity images and links will definitely be used
- All materials mentioned are very useful. Especially to encourage correct use of language. Thank you
- Lots of resources to look at and use
- as an RE Lead who works in EYFS this is so useful for me to input to other staff.
- Thank you about to do a topic on Judaism in the summer so really useful. I really like the link page for EY to KS2 golden thread. Will definitely follow this up and show colleagues.
- Thank you - this has been really helpful!
- Thank you, really looking forward to census info. My first meeting, it has been very helpful.
- Really useful as the vocabulary around Hinduism is difficult for children to remember
- These are really useful - I'm new to the subject lead role at a new school, the RE does need a bit of a planning update (our mixed age classes are a bit tricky!) Are these available for us or should we develop our own from the agreed syllabus? Thanks
- Super, thank you. We can make adaptations for our mixed year and KS classes... Thank you will ask for the leadership course
- These sessions are a good refresher to remember all the great resources we have access to and can point other teachers to as Lead.
- Really good for CPD for our KS2 STAFF
- Concise subject knowledge is always useful to pass over to teachers.
- Also knowing it is reliable is helpful too as there is so much info out there on the internet. The slides are very useful and I will be using with KS2 staff.
- This is a great list to share with staff
- Thanks you Olivia! As always, really useful.
- Thank you so much, it was very helpful and will help me support staff

2.3 The subject leader course is running this term over 2 sessions. There are 16 Primary RE subject leaders booked on the course.

3.0 SACRE Newsletter

The spring term newsletter went out to schools in January. 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 2021 Census Data

The results of the religion questions from the 2021 Census were released at the end of November and you can find a summary of all of the results in this news article by NATRE. If you want to find out even more about the census data you could also listen to this RE podcast <https://www.therepodcast.co.uk/post/s7-e14-the-one-about-the-2021-census> or read more and watch this religion and media centre briefing here: <https://religionmediacentre.org.uk/rmc-briefings/briefing-impact-of-census-results-onreligion-and-belief-2/>

You can look at the detail of north Yorkshire data on the ONS website here: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps/choropleth/identity/religion/religion-tb/no-religion?lad=E07000163> and I have provided a summary below

Lower Tier Local Authorities	Religion (10 categories)	%
Craven	No religion	38.50%
	Christian	53.80%
	Buddhist	0.20%
	Hindu	0.20%
	Jewish	0.10%
	Muslim	1.10%
	Sikh	0.10%
	Other religion	0.40%
	Not answered	5.60%
	Hambleton	No religion
Christian		59.40%
Buddhist		0.20%
Hindu		0.10%
Jewish		0.10%
Muslim		0.30%
Sikh		0%
Other religion		0.40%
Not answered		5.50%
Harrogate		No religion
	Christian	55.50%
	Buddhist	0.30%
	Hindu	0.30%
	Jewish	0.20%
	Muslim	0.60%
	Sikh	0.10%
	Other religion	0.40%
	Not answered	6.30%

Richmondshire	No religion	35.80%
	Christian	55.70%
	Buddhist	1%
	Hindu	1.50%
	Jewish	0%
	Muslim	0.20%
	Sikh	0%
	Other religion	0.70%
	Not answered	5%
Ryedale	No religion	34.20%
	Christian	58.70%
	Buddhist	0.20%
	Hindu	0.10%
	Jewish	0.10%
	Muslim	0.30%
	Sikh	0%
	Other religion	0.40%
	Not answered	6%
Scarborough	No religion	39.40%
	Christian	52.80%
	Buddhist	0.30%
	Hindu	0.10%
	Jewish	0.10%
	Muslim	0.70%
	Sikh	0%
	Other religion	0.50%
	Not answered	6.10%
Selby	No religion	38.80%
	Christian	54.70%
	Buddhist	0.20%
	Hindu	0.10%
	Jewish	0.10%
	Muslim	0.20%
	Sikh	0.10%
	Other religion	0.40%
	Not answered	5.30%

5.0 New RE teacher recruitment campaign as popular GCSE subject faces staff shortage

A campaign to attract a new generation of RE teachers has kicked off with teaching groups, religious organisations and parliamentarians stressing the importance of the subject for preparing students for life in modern Britain.

As of January, UCAS data show that teacher recruitment for all subjects is down 22% from last year. However RE stands out, being down a third of applicants from the last recruitment cycle.

Government inaction over recruiting teachers to RE has been blamed. The Department for Education (DfE) has so far missed its target for the recruitment of RE teachers in nine of the last ten years.

Despite this year's fall in applicants, the subject continues to grow in popularity. Over the last five years entries to the GCSE have stood around an average of 250,000 with entries to the full course GCSE rising by 30% over the last decade.

The recruitment campaign – entitled 'Beyond the Ordinary' - draws attention to the academic and knowledge rich approach of the subject to life's big questions, and will seek to attract a set of talented graduates up to the task of getting young people to grips with the complex nature of modern belief.

Kathryn Wright, Chief Executive Officer of Culham St Gabriel's Trust, which is supporting the campaign, said: "Religious education is an important curriculum subject enabling children and young people to navigate our complex multi religious, multi secular society. Everyone has a worldview, and it's important we prepare young people to become free thinking, critical participants in public discourse, who can make informed judgements about matters of religion or belief and reflect meaningfully on the big questions in life." We are looking for ambitious graduates from a range of humanities and social science subjects who can deliver an academic and rigorous curriculum aimed at getting young people to think critically about their own beliefs and those of others."

Last March, the Father of the House, Sir Peter Bottomley MP hosted a roundtable on the future of the subject. In October, a Westminster Hall Debate saw MPs and Peers from across the House agree on its importance for life in modern Britain as well as express concern around a lack of government support for the subject.

Lord Karan Bilimoria said: "The latest teacher recruitment figures are deeply worrying. Parents are concerned, schools are concerned and so too the young people are missing out.

"As a Champion for RE, I've heard numerous times from students that this is one of the few times in the classroom where they get to say what they think about the world around them. At present we face doing a disservice to a generation of young people ill-equipped to deal with the complexities of belief in Britain and the world beyond. This campaign is about getting the best humanities graduates into the classroom to help them deliver a modern RE curriculum reflective of belief in our society."

Teacher training courses are open to graduates from a range of academic disciplines and from all sorts of diverse backgrounds, with Subject Knowledge Enhancement courses available from schools, universities or other providers.

Anyone looking for more information about training to be a RE teacher should visit <https://www.cstg.org.uk/campaigns/teacher-recruitment/becoming-a-teacher>

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

10/03//2023

Report Author: Olivia Seymour

Background documents:

North Yorkshire SACRE Newsletter

School Improvement and Early Years' Service
January 2023

PLEASE PASS ON TO YOUR RE SUBJECT LEADER

Welcome to the spring 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 upcoming networks and courses are below



Title of event	Date	Online Code	Start	End
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 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.

Important News from SACRE

SACRE is beginning the process of reviewing the Locally Agreed Syllabus in time for a new or revised syllabus to be launched in Spring 2024 for implementation in all schools from Autumn 2024. SACRE wants to ensure that schools are consulted on the effectiveness of the current syllabus and want to hear what schools want and need in any syllabus review.

We would be grateful if you could complete the SACRE survey here:

World Religion Day 2023

World Religion Day 2023 takes place on **Sunday, 15 January**.

BBC Teach has put together collection of classroom resources for primary and secondary schools to support teaching around World Religion Day. World Religion Day takes place each January, aiming to promote understanding and peace between all religions as well as mutual understanding and tolerance between peoples from different backgrounds.

You can find the resources here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/world-religion-day-teaching-resources/zs6fsk7>



News from Culham St Gabriels



2023 competition for Children and Young People. Calling all budding film makers!

Theme: A View on the World

Closing Date: Friday 31st March at 5pm

How have religious and non-religious worldviews changed over time where you live?

How would you describe the mix of worldviews in your community today?

What might it look like in 50 years' time?

The winning entry will have their film professionally made!

We are inviting **children and young people** to create a **90 second film script, storyboard or recorded film**. Celebrating 50 Years of the Religious Education Council of England and Wales in partnership with Culham St Gabriel's Trust.

The competition is open to all children and young people aged 5-18 whether educated at school or at home. Entries from children and young people with special educational needs or from pupil referral units are welcome. Please use the following links to find out more including suggested resources, judging criteria and how to submit entries.

For further details go to <https://www.reonline.org.uk/information-for-teachers/>

Culham St Gabriel's Trust new Primary Course – Introduction for Primary Beginner Teachers

Calling all Primary mentors, Beginner Teachers, ITE providers or trainers! We are delighted to announce the launch of our new, free, courses.

THREE courses introduce Beginner Teachers in the Primary phase to Religion and Worldviews, teaching and learning and subject knowledge. Use as self-study, with others or as part of a wider programme.

For further details go to <https://courses.cstg.org.uk/>

The value of an education in Religion and Worldviews – promotional Films

Take a look at these wonderful films featuring a wide range of people and professions celebrating the value of an education in Religion and Worldviews. Use them for a staff meetings, with pupils, at an open evening or to raise awareness.

You can find the collection here:

<https://www.cstg.org.uk/campaigns/promoting-an-education-in-rwv/promotional-film-collection/>



News from NATRE – Membership offers


In response to schools' current needs, NATRE have re-vamped their membership offer, allowing budgets to stretch further. Now schools and teachers can choose the membership that suits them best. Benefits include:

- Whole staff teams now have **unlimited multi-login to the members area** with NATRE if they are a **School or School Enhanced membership** at no additional cost.
- For those who just want a taster of NATRE, a **Basic level membership** has been introduced for only **£15 a year!**



2021 Census Data

The results of the religion questions from the 2021 Census were released at the end of November and you can find a summary of all of the results in this news article by NATRE.

 If you want to find out even more about the census data you could also **listen** to this RE podcast <https://www.therepodcast.co.uk/post/s7-e14-the-one-about-the-2021-census>

or **read more** and **watch** this religion and media centre briefing here: <https://religionmediacentre.org.uk/rmc-briefings/briefing-impact-of-census-results-on-religion-and-belief-2/>



If you watch one thing this week....

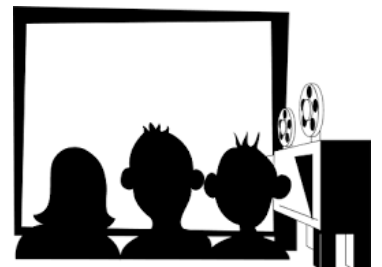
World's Apart by Emily Downe

How different are science and religion? Is it a matter of how we see the world?

Theos Think Tank have released a new short animation by Emily Downe, that travels through a whirlwind of questions surrounding the science and religion debate. The film invites the viewer into the details of the conversations, where there is less conflict than it seems from far off.

For any teacher exploring science and religion or different worldviews and interpretations, this video will spark conversation.

You can watch it here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SXXj_YB--g



Festival Calendar

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

