

North Yorkshire Council

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

June 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 summer term primary networks of the year took place in April and May and 22 attended. This is a drop in attendance but consistent with other networks this term and with RE Networks from last academic year which showed lower attendance in the summer term. The focus was on considering substantive knowledge and knowledge progression for Christianity exploring a range of practical resources to support teacher subject knowledge and classroom teaching.

2.2 Feedback from attendees included

- About to start on 'Art and Architecture/Charity' useful thinking about linking to Salvation Army or Methodists.
- Pupils would be very interested in the spectrum within Christianity and how different they can be and looking at these comparisons
- Also great to have a reminder to use images to assess pupils knowledge in some instances
- As a very diverse school the different imagery around Christianity will spark interest.
- I would like to highlight the diversity of Christianity in our curriculum.
- I'm new to RE and have found the knowledge statements really useful to help with future planning of LTP. Found discussing religions interesting. Would love to explore how to use agreed syllabus and planning from it so that I can deliver CPD to the rest of teaching staff.
- I have found the concept maps and knowledge progression statements really helpful, thank you
- Thank you. Always really helpful!
- Thank you very much! All the resources will be incredibly helpful to signpost staff to!
- Thankyou! This has been really helpful!
- I've got a bit of work to do to ensure we are including diverse images etc
- It has been helpful to reinforce the importance of giving a more broad view/perspective of Christianity
- We need to be more diverse in terms of Christian groups/images
- Thinking more widely about RE as a local, national and global
- Refining my knowledge statements in our long term plan.
- Resources are really helpful thanks
- and links to reliable websites
- Thank you - as always lots of really useful information and resources.

3.0 SACRE Newsletter

The summer term newsletter went out to schools in April. A copy is attached for SACRE members.

4.0 News from NATRE: Two-thirds of secondary early career teachers rate subject knowledge training as 'poor' or 'very poor'

Over the last week, NATRE has been conducting a flash survey for secondary teachers in their first two years in the profession since qualification (ECTs). We wanted to hear their assessment of the delivery of the government funded programme designed to develop their subject knowledge. When NATRE began its grant funded New2RE programme 7 years ago, one of the drivers was the evidence that lack of subject knowledge was a key factor in the alarming proportions of teachers leaving the profession in the early years of their careers. We are proud to report that New2RE participants, with the benefits of extensive subject knowledge learning, stayed in teaching at significantly higher rates.

When the government announced their Early Career Framework with a clear commitment to addressing the issue of subject specific knowledge and skills in 2019, we might have dared to be optimistic. However, the news from the classroom was not good. Anecdotal evidence from those attending NATRE's free monthly subject knowledge webinars during this academic year, was that little or no attention was being paid to subject knowledge in their schools' early career offering. Worse still, many of the ECTs were the only subject specialist on their staff team, so there was no one properly qualified to support this aspect of the early career programme.

Earlier this month, the government's education select committee announced an inquiry into the recruitment, training and retention of teachers so the flash survey was launched. Open for just a week to hit last Friday's submission deadline, we still attracted 60 responses. Almost 2/3rds of our respondents reported that, in relation to teacher standard 3: Develop good curriculum and subject knowledge, their rating of the ECT programme was either poor (37%) or very poor (28%). Only one in ten thought the programme was good in this respect. Obviously, this is a small sample, but NATRE will ask this question again as part of the secondary survey which will begin in a few weeks' time.

So, we have told the government that there is a job to do here and that [NATRE's ECT membership](#), including its subject knowledge webinars, which are open to all, is playing its part. However, this is an issue that needs urgent attention, not only because it affects teacher confidence and consequentially retention, but even more importantly, standards of religious education for pupils.

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

22/05/2023

Report Author: Olivia Seymour

Background documents:

North Yorkshire SACRE Newsletter

School Improvement and Early Years' Service

April 2023

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

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) 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 would like to say thank you to all schools who took part in our survey in the spring term. Look out for updates on the Locally Agreed Syllabus in our Autumn term newsletter.

News from NATRE:

Children's Commissioner shares her views on RE



A member of the NATRE executive, Shammi Rahman, recently interviewed The Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel de Souza. Dame Rachel is a previous RE teacher and headteacher and Shammi, is an ex secondary teacher and now a Race Equality Adviser. Dame Rachel used to be her RE teacher!

Dame Rachel says, 'a former RE teacher myself, I believe RE teachers have a crucial opportunity to teach children about the wider world and principals of fairness and equality. It was great to talk about how different faiths can teach us different things, for example treating others as we would like to be treated ourselves; having compassion for others; and celebrating the beauty of life in our environment.' Listen to their conversation here

[Conversation with Shammi Rahman: The importance of Religious Education | Children's Commissioner for England \(childrenscommissioner.gov.uk\)](#)

News from Culham St Gabriels



Culham St Gabriel's Trust new short course – Introduction to Subject Knowledge

Need subject knowledge? Not sure where to start? CSTG are pleased to announce the launch of a NEW free, short online self-study course. The course is for teachers of all age ranges and in all contexts. See what enhanced subject knowledge can do for you, sign up for our courses now! Take the course: <https://courses.cstg.org.uk/enrol/index.php?id=27>

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/>

Discovering Sacred Texts in the RE Classroom

Bring sacred texts to the classroom with these fascinating resources from the British Library. The resource covers Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhi, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Find out more here: <https://www.bl.uk/sacred-texts/activities/key-stage-2-teaching-resources>



Discovering Sacred Texts: Key Stage 2 teaching resources

Bring sacred texts into your classroom with our set of Religious Education lessons for upper Key Stage 2 (years 5–6).

Festival Calendar

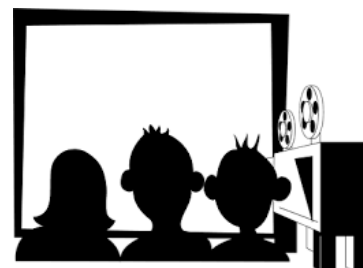
Search for religious festivals by religion and/or month here: <https://www.reonline.org.uk/festival-calendar/>



If you watch one thing this week....

Dr Richard Kueh, the His Majesty's Inspector of Schools and National Subject lead for Religious Education, has produced two videos: Factors the influence the quality of Religious Education in schools. What pupils learn in the Religious Education curriculum. You can find them here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GiaKdZkTaMU>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJmJC_RhRNk



Collective Worship Resources

Life Savers Collective Worship Resources

The [Just Finance Foundation](#) works directly with schools to improve financial education through the LifeSavers programme. Engaging your students with values-based money lessons is important and develops key life skills. Through their LifeSavers Programme you can access flexible lesson plans, beautiful storybooks, assembly resources and much more! JFF's financial education experts will also provide convenient CPD training and help connect you with other teachers.

All of their programmes, training and resources are delivered at no cost to your school. Find out more and get involved: <https://bit.ly/3S3pECH>



An **innovative**, values-based, **FREE** financial literacy programme that gives children the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to manage their money wisely.

Research from the Money Advice Service finds that many **habits around money are formed at primary school**. Early intervention in financial education is, therefore, critical to instil positive behaviours and attitudes in relation to money.

What's available?

Lifesavers is a unique programme for primary schools – offering a whole school approach that provides:

- **Classroom Resources** Milo's Money for 5-7 years olds and the 5 Big Questions about Money resource following our core values
- **Whole school resources** in the form of themes, assemblies and savings clubs
- **Training for teachers** to embed financial education into the school curriculum
- **Savings clubs** to give children practical experience of handling money
- **A whole community approach** involving parents, credit unions, and others



Find out more and get signed up: www.justfinancefoundation.org.uk e: lifesavers@jff.org.uk

Picture News Collective Worship Resources

Prices

1 Year – Weekly (online)

- Sent via email weekly
- Full access to Picture News Online

£200

1 Year – Alternate Weeks

- Sent via post and email fortnightly
- Full access to Picture News Online (includes all online packs)
- Display wallet

£320

1 Year – Weekly

- Sent via post and email weekly
- Full access to Picture News Online (includes all online packs)
- Display wallet

£450



To order, please email: help@picture-news.co.uk



What is Picture News?



Picture News is a weekly news pack, emailed to you, focusing on one big and current story.

Every Friday, at 7am we email across a poster with an open-ended question, session planning, Bible link, Biblical core concept, home learning ideas and our UNICEF Rights of the Child link.



For further information, or if you have any questions, email us at help@picture-news.co.uk, any time!

How you can use Picture News

1 Weekly Collective Worship

Share the weekly poster and 'big question' to stimulate a weekly discussion about an issue that's happening right now.

2 As part of an interactive and engaging display

Either in your classroom, or in a whole school area, the poster with our 'big question' is great to encourage conversations between children and staff alike! - It's easy to change each week too!

3 To support home learning

Why not send our 'Take Home' resource home for children to discuss the week's current issue? Or add to your website or social media channels to let parents, know what their children have been discussing at school!

