

# North Yorkshire SACRE Newsletter

**School Improvement and Early Years' Service  
January 2024**

**PLEASE PASS ON TO YOUR RE SUBJECT LEAD AND COLLECTIVE WORSHIP LEAD**

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, 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>

This 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. Details of all the upcoming networks and courses are below

Termly Primary RE Networks	Date	Online Code	Start	End
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
Primary RE Leadership Course	Date	Online Code	Start	End
Session 1	07/02/2024	SI-0224-T002	09:30	12:00
Session 2	26/02/2024	SI-0224-T002	13:00	15:30

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 – Booking information

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. An online booking link will be available to schools soon.

## Holocaust Memorial Day 2024 – Resources from Holocaust Learning UK



Holocaust Learning UK offers schools a unique array of films, tailor-made for secondary school students.

The films feature many Holocaust survivors and each tells a very different story. The films include hitherto unseen survivor testimony, archive historical footage and a cast of student actors to foster an understanding of the Holocaust, both its historical importance and its contemporary relevance.

For 2024 Holocaust Learning UK are offering two films for school assemblies, and two further life story films for lessons - all four are available free of charge. The films are accompanied by bespoke resources provided by the Holocaust Educational Trust. You can watch the trailers [here](#) and register to view one or more of the films [here](#)

## RE Hubs Website

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 lead is [Olivia Seymour](#) (Yorkshire and Humber)

## News from Culham St Gabriels

### Professional Development Opportunities from Culham St Gabriel's Trust



#### Leadership Scholarship Programme Opens

Are you thinking about the next step in your career? CSTG's funded, mentored [Leadership Scholarship Programme](#) might be for you. Find out about the requirements of the programme and how to apply at this free online webinar - bring your questions and hear directly from the programme leader.

Time: 6:30-7:30 pm Date: 27th February 2024

[Book your free place here](#)

#### New E-Learning Course: Digging Deeper Research

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Expand your understanding of the value of research-informed practice, exploring terms such as 'critical engagement' and digging deeper into how research can support you.

[All E-Learning courses are free and can be accessed here on any device.](#)

### **Promoting Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB)**

Find out why CSTG is joining this global work to protect and promote freedom of religion or belief.

What does FoRB look like in the classroom? [Find out how Primary pupils made sense of FoRB principles in these action research projects](#)

## News from Humanists UK

### **FREE RESOURCES**

Our comprehensive [Understanding Humanism](#) website provides a wealth of **FREE resources** for EYFS through to Key Stage 5, to support teaching and development of units of work about [humanism](#). On the site you will find information sheets, presentations, activities, assessment ideas, and humanist perspectives on a wide range of questions and topics. We also have films to bring humanism to life in the classroom, including a brand new animation: [Humanist History: from radical ideas to common sense](#). These resources are designed to help teachers explore non-religious worldviews with their students but, along with the [core knowledge guide](#), will also be helpful to SACREs to create age appropriate content or units of work. Our handy [guide](#) helps users to get started.

### **FREE SCHOOL SPEAKER VISITS**

Did you know that teachers can [book a FREE visit](#) (online or in person) 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. This could be a general introduction to humanism or planned around a specific topic. For example, if teachers are planning lessons, assemblies, or events for [Darwin Day](#) (on **12 February**) our school speakers can share perspectives on human beings' relationship with the natural world, why humanists celebrate Darwin's work, and what it means for our understanding of ourselves.

### **TEACHER TRAINING**

Teachers can also sign up for one of our upcoming twilight [training webinars](#), taking place on **30 January** or **12 March** (primary) and **1 February** or **14 March** (secondary), with more coming up in the summer and autumn terms. These will deepen teachers' subject knowledge of humanism, and support them with practical ideas for the classroom.

## 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/>

## Teaching Resources – Art and RE



The Wallace Collection, is a range of free, downloadable teacher resources to explore art in the RE curriculum. The downloadable teacher resources draw links between the curriculum and the collection, providing key object information, activity ideas and supporting materials.

You can explore the resources here: [Resources for secondary teachers: Art and RE - The Wallace Collection](#)

## Empowering Voices Resource

Empowering Voices', is a project coordinated by Lincolnshire adviser Gillian Georgiou, supported by a team of production experts, school pupils and members of local religion and worldview communities. This is part of a wider project exploring diversity and community in Lincolnshire, called 'REConnecting Lincolnshire'. Read [Gillian's blog](#) about this wider work and how it inspired the creation of podcasts, the Empowering Voices project.



Access the whole resource [here](#), including guidance for teaching, multimedia resources, teachers' notes and education packs.

Find out about REConnecting Lincolnshire [here](#), and get ideas for exploring diversity your region.

## Primary and Secondary RE

**If you read to one thing this week....**

### Research of the month - Monitoring students' use of disciplinary language in Religious Education

Primary and Secondary teachers will be interested to read about this [research](#) investigating the impact of pupil use of disciplinary language in speaking, in this example, philosophical language. Raising questions about the impact on pupils' talk, knowledge and reasoning.



## Secondary RE

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

### RE Podcast – the one about leading an RE Department

In this [podcast](#) Louisa talks to Charlotte Newman who gives some advice and ideas about the successes and the things she has learnt in her time as a head of department. They discuss such questions like 'What makes a successful RE department?' 'How do you get SLT to support RE?' and 'What would be the first three things a new Head of Department should do?'



## Festival Calendar

Search for religious festivals by religion and/or month here:

<https://www.reonline.org.uk/festival-calendar/>

