

# North Yorkshire County Council

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

20<sup>th</sup> April 2021

### Update from Professional RE Adviser

#### 1.0 Purpose of the Report

To inform Members on training and support given to schools since the last SACRE meeting.

#### 2.0 Communication

- 2.1 A termly SACRE RE newsletter is now in place. (attached) The aim of the newsletter is to raise awareness of SACRE amongst schools and to provide a mechanism for sharing local and national news and resources. As mentioned previously It is hoped that future editions will include features on SACRE Members and the work of SACRE to support a wider understanding of the work of SACRE. I would be grateful for volunteers who would be willing to write a short piece about themselves and their involvement in SACRE.

#### 3.0 Training

- 3.1 In the spring term 22 Primary Schools booked on to the RE Network. The training section of the network focussed on engaging with text in the RE classroom. A range of local and national resources were also shared including support for remote teaching and learning.
- 3.4 We are still working on being able to share information from the new online feedback form in a useful way. Informal feedback from the training included:

- You have included some really useful ideas for supporting staff with their own subject knowledge as non-specialists. More of this would be helpful
- More focus on how to use the texts we've talked about today in learning
- That was very useful, thank you with lots of 'food for thought'!
- Thank you very much this was very informative. Looking forward to looking into some of the resources you've signposted.
- Thank you, it have been a very informative session
- I find this format very useful and informative
- Yes, loads of detailed information.
- Yes Ofsted would be really helpful
- Future helpful topic - mixed age planning? Sorry if already covered - this is my first meeting
- A separate group would be good for that as not all schools need it
- The range of courses and twilights you have offered in the past year have been brilliant, thank you.
- Thanks ever so much. Very useful
- I really like the idea of deepening text understanding through a different focus. This will support reading as a whole,
- but allow a different 'less worksheety' teaching and learning style to RE
- I think just by trying out a few of the word/text activities, the children will begin to engage in a deeper way and then that will give us something to build on.
- I think being able to offer different versions of sacred texts would be invaluable. I don't imagine as a school we have invested in RE texts for a while so we are

- probably using the same ones we always have which may not be the best examples.
- I think just by trying out a few of the word/text activities, the children will begin to engage in a deeper way and then that will give us something to build on.
- When I was putting together the knowledge organisers for RE, I was shocked by my own ignorance and learned so many new things even just with regards to the vocabulary and definitions.
- Those resources will be really helpful to pass on to colleagues, thank you.
- Loads of great things to share. Thank you!
- I've found this really helpful and will definitely cascade to colleagues about using texts in different ways.
- It was really helpful to have new resources and ideas to share across school.
- thank you so much, it has been great to understand more about the texts we can use

3.5 The Secondary network was again cancelled due to low numbers. The Professional RE Adviser is working with Local Authority Officers to consider the most effective ways of engaging with Secondary RE Leads to provide support and training.

3.6 RE networks continue to run in the summer term. Diversity in Christianity will be the training focus for the Primary RE networks. The Secondary RE network will focus on intent and implementation of an effective RE curriculum with a particular focus on curriculum progression and Ofsted expectations.

#### **4.0 Support for Senior Leaders and Governors**

4.1 As reported previously the Professional RE Adviser is working with Local Authority Officers to explore mechanisms to ensure senior leaders and governors have access to guidance and support on matters relating to RE and Collective Worship. Plans to do this in the Spring term were put on hold due to the ongoing school challenges. The plan is to share information at Leadership and Governor Networks in the summer or autumn term.

#### **5.0 Monitoring of RE**

5.1 Following the last SACRE meeting, the Professional RE Adviser met with teacher representatives to look at the draft questionnaire on provision for RE in Primary and Secondary Schools. The questionnaires have been approved to use in schools.

5.2 The professional RE adviser is working with the LA to send the questionnaires to schools in the summer term and collate the information. This information will provide an important baseline for SACRE in considering its next steps in undertaking its responsibility for monitoring standards in RE.

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

30<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Report Author: Olivia Seymour

Background documents: None

# North Yorkshire SACRE Newsletter

## School Improvement and Early Years' Service April 2021

### PLEASE PASS ON TO YOUR RE SUBJECT LEADER

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 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://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>

## Summer Term training and Professional Practice Groups for Primary and Secondary RE Leads

This year NYCC is 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.

**Primary** This term the Primary RE professional practice networks will focus on 'Teaching Diverse Christianity'

There are two options for the network

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021 09.30-11.30 course code SI-0521-T014

To book go to <https://www.nyestraining.co.uk/Event/137548>

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021 13.30-15.30 course code SI-0521-T015

To book go to <https://www.nyestraining.co.uk/Event/137549>

**Secondary** This term the secondary RE professional practice networks will focus on intent and implementation of an effective RE curriculum (with a particular focus on curriculum progression and Ofsted expectations)

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May 13.30-15.30 course code SI-0521-T013

To book go to <https://www.nyestraining.co.uk/Event/137540>

## Introducing Yesmien Bagh Ali

Yazi (Yesmien) is a British born, Muslim woman and has been delivering workshops about the Muslim Faith, in both Primary and Secondary schools, in the North for over 14 years. Her sessions are very much hands on and creative, that are planned to best support staff, pupils knowledge and understanding of the Islamic Faith and the way of life for a Muslim. Covering important festivals that will be coming up, such as Ramadhan and Eid celebrations. (Ramadhan starts 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021). Yazi creative approach encourages pupils to better understand:-

### Who is a Muslim and what do they believe?

She talks about the simple way of life for a Muslim, to more detailed on the Muslim beliefs about God. Encouraging pupils to Identify rituals, items of significance to Muslims, and sharing why they are important. (i.e. Wudu, Hajj, Hijaab, Niqaab, prayer beads, prayer mat, Qur'an and stand, compass).

As a Muslim she shares the importance of the 5 pillars of Islam and what each one means. Giving pupils the opportunity to understand being a Muslim is a way of life not just about the 5 pillars. Beliefs about God, contribution to community.



She shares her personal journey and what it mean to be a Muslim in Britain today?

Yazi teaching approach is unique. Her method of using the five senses, drama, cooking, art, dressing up and storytelling has always been popular both with pupils and staff. Often leading to important and current topics.

Yazi has adapted her sessions to also deliver via platforms such as Zoom so schools don't miss out on the opportunity to continue teaching R.E topics. They have been popular with parents too.

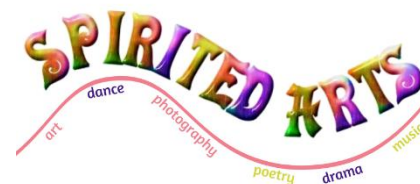
For further information on school visits

Website: [www.amaali.co.uk](http://www.amaali.co.uk) Email: [Yazi@amaali.co.uk](mailto:Yazi@amaali.co.uk)

Contact Tele: 07906294476

## NATRE Spirited Arts Competition

Join hundreds of schools from around the world taking part in this year's Spirited Arts competition! NATRE welcomes entries in (almost!) any artform your pupils can think of, including:



- Art (painting, drawing, sketching etc)
- Poetry
- Photography
- Dance
- Music
- Drama
- Sculpture

Winning entries will provide a good response to one of the 5 themes, and judges will be asking is it original? Is it well-crafted? And (most importantly!) is it excellent RE?

Pupils can enter individually, in pairs or groups, or as whole class, year or school entries.

The annual competition starts at the beginning of every school year and runs through the spring and summer terms. All entries must be received before 31 July 2021. To enable teachers to incorporate the art competition into their RE lessons, many schools have an 'Spirited Arts' unit of work, or a special learning RE/arts week.

Many schools host their own Spirited Arts competition and send their 10 winning entries in to the international competition. What a great way to engage all your teachers and pupils and raise the profile of RE in your school!

All the details on this year's themes, how to enter and supporting materials are on the NATRE website <https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/spirited-arts-2021/>

## Curriculum Conversations Series

The NATRE and LTLRE joint regional conference Primary and Secondary RE curriculum workshops are now open for bookings. There are several workshops across Autumn 2021. All details are in the flier attached to this terms newsletter and on Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/learn-teach-lead-re-yorkshire-and-humber-24884492584>

**Curriculum Conversations**  
For RE teachers in Yorkshire

Regional conversation: An opportunity to reflect on what we have learnt so far  
Thursday 24th June 4.15pm. To book a place: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1457472649092>

**Coming in the Autumn term....**

Session title and date	To book
Designing an Effective RE Curriculum Gillian Georgiou Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/148585978665">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/148585978665</a>
Engaging in research in the primary RE classroom Emma Salter Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> October 2021	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/148588065905">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/148588065905</a>
Teaching using story and text in Primary RE Fiona Moss Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2021	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/148588772017">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/148588772017</a>
RE in the EYFS: Creating Strong Foundations Catriona Card Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2021	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/148589508219">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/148589508219</a>
How to tackle anti-racism in the primary classroom Salma Saleh Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/148590737897">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/148590737897</a>

Events will take place via Zoom. Sessions are limited to 75 places and places are prioritised for teachers in Yorkshire

NATRE For any queries or further information please contact Olivia Seymour [Olivia@natre.org.uk](mailto:Olivia@natre.org.uk)

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**Coming in the Autumn term....**

Session title and date	To book
From conversation to implementation: constructing an RE curriculum Bae Wood Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/14859393787">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/14859393787</a>
Engaging in research in the secondary RE classroom Kathryn Wright Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> October 2021	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/148593867203">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/148593867203</a>
GCSE Rachel Jackson-Royal November 2021	
Diversity in Islam, Shia Islam: An alternative narrative Zameer Hussain Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/148600711729">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/148600711729</a>
Revolutionary RE Ashiah Kundi Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/148601331583">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/148601331583</a>
Authentic and rich teaching of Hinduism Ashiah Kundi Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/148602236289">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/148602236289</a>
A-level Rachel Jackson-Royal February 2022	

Events will take place via Zoom. Sessions are limited to 75 places and places are prioritised for teachers in Yorkshire

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## Free online A-Level Webinars from the University of Chester

The University of Chester have announced Series 2 of their FREE online A-Level RS webinars. New topics (check them out below!) at 4pm every Tuesday starting April 20th. Teachers, please email [trs@chester.ac.uk](mailto:trs@chester.ac.uk) to request the links to the whole series to share with your class.

**TRS Chester**  
**Religious Studies Webinars**  
Series 2

Department of Theology and Religious Studies |  University of Chester



**Every Tuesday 4.00pm–4.50pm**

Open to all A level students of any subject and their teachers!

30-minute lecture plus anonymous Q&A in the chat (audience neither seen nor heard).

Please email [trs@chester.ac.uk](mailto:trs@chester.ac.uk) for the link to the series, giving name and address of your school.

20th April	<p><b>The Ethics of Allocating Health Care in a Pandemic: Kantian, Utilitarian, and Christian Approaches</b></p> <p>David teaches Christian theology and ethics and is a leading international scholar on Christianity and animals. He founded CreatureKind and DefaultVeg to work for practical changes in the consumption of animals.</p>	Prof David Clough
27th April	<p><b>Did Jesus Rise from the Dead?</b></p> <p>Paul is Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity. He specialises in martyrdom and violence in the ancient and modern world.</p>	Prof Paul Middleton
4th May	<p><b>Is Liberation Theology just for Christians?</b></p> <p>Alana is Associate Professor of Jewish Philosophy, Religion and Imagination. She specialises in modern Jewish philosophy.</p>	Dr Alana Vincent
11th May	<p><b>"It's wrong so don't do it!" – An Introduction to Metaethics</b></p> <p>Dhivan teaches philosophy, Buddhism and Hinduism. He researches early Buddhist philosophy. He also leads Buddhist meditation retreats.</p>	Dr Dhivan Jones
18th May	<p><b>Is Bonhoeffer's Theology Relevant Today?</b></p> <p>Jonathan is Lecturer in Theological Ethics and teaches on modules in Christian Ethics and Theology. His research examines the interaction between Christian eschatology and social and political ethics.</p>	Jonathan Dunn
25th May	<p><b>Symbol, Metaphor and Story in Religious language</b></p> <p>Ben is Senior Lecturer in Systematic Theology and specialises in modern and historical Christian Theology.</p>	Dr Ben Fulford
1st June	<p><b>Is God Male?</b></p> <p>Hannah is Associate Professor in Feminist Theology. She specialises in Christian Thought, especially around sin and salvation and how it intersects with the lives of women.</p>	Dr Hannah Bacon
8th June	<p><b>The Qur'an as a Source of Religious Authority</b></p> <p>Amin is an anthropologist who researches the intersection of Islam and politics. He is currently a Research Associate exploring the interpretation of the Qur'an in the UK.</p>	Dr Amin El Yousfi
15th June	<p><b>Is Mindfulness Buddhist?</b></p> <p>Wendy is Associate Professor of Religious Studies. She specialises in Buddhism, Religious Education, RS methodology, and spirituality and health. She is an A level examiner and textbook writer.</p>	Dr Wendy Dossett
22nd June	<p><b>"There has never been only one form of family" (Rosemary Radford Ruether): Christianity, Religious Change, and the Family</b></p> <p>Dawn is Senior Lecturer in Christian Studies and teaches Religious Studies, Sociology of Religion, and Religion and Gender. She is a qualitative researcher, focusing on gender and contemporary Christianity.</p>	Dr Dawn Llewellyn
29th June	<p><b>Islam and Secularism</b></p> <p>Caroline is Senior Lecturer in Islamic Studies and is an anthropologist of religion focusing on Islam in contemporary Turkey.</p>	Dr Caroline Tee
6th July	<p><b>Is there a Cosmic Designer?</b></p> <p>Steve is Senior Lecturer in Religion and Popular Culture. He specialises in contemporary apocalyptic ideologies.</p>	Dr Steve Knowles

@TRSChester #ALevelRSWebinar

### A chance to contribute to research

What is the experience of student teachers and recently qualified teachers of science and RE of science religion encounters in the classroom? Complete the survey, share your experience and enter a prize draw for £50 vouchers.  
[tinyurl.com/nicersurvey](https://tinyurl.com/nicersurvey)

**PRIMARY,  
SECONDARY RE  
AND  
SECONDARY  
SCIENCE TEACHERS**

**WE WANT  
YOUR  
FEEDBACK**

**Our survey for primary, secondary RE and secondary science teachers has now launched**

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION RESEARCH

[tinyurl.com/nicersurvey](https://tinyurl.com/nicersurvey)