

Agenda

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Monday, 6 March 2023, 2.00 pm
County Hall, Worcester

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DISCLOSING INTERESTS

There are now 2 types of interests:
'Disclosable pecuniary interests' and **'other disclosable interests'**

WHAT IS A 'DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST' (DPI)?

- Any **employment**, office, trade or vocation carried on for profit or gain
- **Sponsorship** by a 3rd party of your member or election expenses
- Any **contract** for goods, services or works between the Council and you, a firm where you are a partner/director, or company in which you hold shares
- Interests in **land** in Worcestershire (including licence to occupy for a month or longer)
- **Shares** etc (with either a total nominal value above £25,000 or 1% of the total issued share capital) in companies with a place of business or land in Worcestershire.

NB Your DPIs include the interests of your spouse/partner as well as you

WHAT MUST I DO WITH A DPI?

- **Register** it within 28 days and
- **Declare** it where you have a DPI in a matter at a particular meeting
 - you must **not participate** and you **must withdraw**.

NB It is a criminal offence to participate in matters in which you have a DPI

WHAT ABOUT 'OTHER DISCLOSABLE INTERESTS'?

- No need to register them but
- You must **declare** them at a particular meeting where:
 - You/your family/person or body with whom you are associated have a **pecuniary interest** in or **close connection** with the matter under discussion.

WHAT ABOUT MEMBERSHIP OF ANOTHER AUTHORITY OR PUBLIC BODY?

You will not normally even need to declare this as an interest. The only exception is where the conflict of interest is so significant it is seen as likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest.

DO I HAVE TO WITHDRAW IF I HAVE A DISCLOSABLE INTEREST WHICH ISN'T A DPI?

Not normally. You must withdraw only if it:

- affects your **pecuniary interests OR** relates to a **planning or regulatory** matter
- **AND** it is seen as likely to **prejudice your judgement** of the public interest.

DON'T FORGET

- If you have a disclosable interest at a meeting you must **disclose both its existence and nature** – 'as noted/recorded' is insufficient
- **Declarations must relate to specific business** on the agenda
 - General scattergun declarations are not needed and achieve little
- Breaches of most of the **DPI provisions** are now **criminal offences** which may be referred to the police which can on conviction by a court lead to fines up to £5,000 and disqualification up to 5 years
- Formal **dispensation** in respect of interests can be sought in appropriate cases.

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education **Monday, 6 March 2023, 2.00 pm, County Hall, Worcester**

Membership:

Group A (Representatives of Christian and other faiths)

Mr G Bounds (Free Church Representative), Ade Couper (Quaker Representative), Sheila Hicks (Catholic Diocesan Education Service), Mrs T Khawaja (Muslim Representative), Jenny Lockwood (Worcestershire Baha'i Community), Mr J Loyal (Sikh Representative), Mrs C Parker (Methodist Representative), Aimee Parsons (Catholic Diocesan Education Service) and Dr Y Stollard (Jewish Representative)

Group B (Church of England Representatives)

Danielle Evans (Church of England) and Rev Duncan Hutchison (Diocese of Worcester)

Group C (Representatives of Recognised Teachers Associations)

Charlotte Betteridge (NASUWT) and Mr C Giles (Teacher Representative)

Group D (Elected representatives of the Local Authority)

Cllr Mel Allcott (Worcestershire County Council), Cllr Matt Jenkins (Worcestershire County Council) and Cllr Emma Marshall (Worcestershire County Council)

Co-opted Representatives

Ms E Hill (University of Worcester)

Agenda

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4	Primary and Secondary Conferences	7 - 12
5	Additional Support To discuss the additional support to be offered to schools.	
6	Local Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NATRE local Group 	

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Date of Issue: Friday, 17 February 2023

Item No	Subject	Page No
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diocesan training • Regional Hub Co-ordinator • Worcester University 	
	RE Updates	
7	Monitoring RE Primary School Survey	
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12	Future Meeting Dates DATES 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 8 June • Monday 9 October 	

Minutes of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious

Education

County Hall, Worcester

Tuesday, 11 October 2022, 2.00 pm

Present:

Cllr. Matthew Jenkins (Chairman), Mr Chris Giles, Ms Ellie Hill, Mr Jatinder Loyal, Mrs Christine Parker, Dr Yvonne Stollard.

Also attended:

Stephen Pett, Lisa Bradbury and Cllr Tracey Onslow

745 Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

Apologies for absence had been received from Mel Alcott, Charlotte Betteridge, Graham Bounds, Duncan Hutchinson, Tasnim Khawaja and Emma Marshall.

As the Chairman was absent, the Vice-Chairman Cllr Matt Jenkins took the Chair.

Cllr Tracey Onslow was welcomed to the meeting. She had been invited in her role as Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education and Skills.

746 Confirmation of the Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on 8 June were agreed to be an accurate record and were signed by the Chairman.

An outstanding action from the last meeting was an agreement to write to Robin Walker asking for support for RE in schools. This had not happened as he was no longer Minister of State for School Standards. It was agreed that a letter could be sent to Robin Walker, as the Local MP, and also to the new Minister.

747 Feedback from Primary and Secondary Conferences 2022

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education Tuesday, 11 October 2022
Date of Issue: 14 October 2022

Worcestershire Primary Conference – 22 June.

Stephen Pett explained that 70 teachers had attended, with some schools allowing several teachers to attend. Good feedback had been received. The SACRE members who had attended were thanked for answering questions on the day. They commented that it had been good to share their lived experience and help teachers by providing a link to the various faith communities.

Three Counties Secondary Conference – 23 June.

Only 5 Worcestershire schools had attended but the feedback had been excellent.

Chris Giles explained that he was no longer an RE Ambassador for NATRE but a Regional Hub Co-ordinator. The role would involve encouraging people to work together and input to a regional hub website.

An update regarding the new Regional Hub Co-ordinators would be provided at the next meeting.

748 Update on Courses

Two Help I'm the RE Co-ordinator courses had been organised with one already having taken place on 28 September. Only 6 primary teachers had taken part, but the feedback had been very positive. 14 schools had taken part in the Excellent RE Course.

Members agreed that it was difficult to appeal to all the relevant teachers as there were different levels of knowledge and interest and it was often difficult for small schools to release the teacher or to afford the cost of the course.

749 Update on Local Groups

The Rivers MAT organised local groups for Primary teachers and organised training courses.

Becky Davidge from the University organised secondary groups and worked with Chris Giles in contacting all secondary schools in Worcestershire along with some outside the borders of the County,.

The Diocese ran RE Hubs supporting mainly local Church of England schools and they also ran courses for RE teachers.

750 Plans for Teacher Support

Stephen Pett suggested that a primary conference be organised for May 2023. A discussion took place on the merits of an online or face to face conference. Online conferences were supported because more people attended online compared to in person conferences (apart from the 2015 syllabus launch) however members believed in person conferences were better for engaging

with people, being able to read body language and an improved learning experience.

The possible date was discussed and members felt that they did not want the Friday before the bank holiday as that was a TED day and likely to mean lots of teachers would not be able to attend. Tuesday 23 May was the likely date, to be confirmed.

Stephen agreed to put together a programme and distribute to SACRE members.

The secondary conference would be held on 22 June and be a Three Counties Conference again, likely to be at Puckrup Hall.

751 Secondary Workforce Data Survey

Chris Giles explained that he had sent a survey to secondary schools to assess how schools were using the Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus, the time given to RE and how SACRE could support schools. 17 schools had responded and the results from ten schools were shown.

The results showed:

- Half the schools were using the Agreed Syllabus
- Schools used different names for RE, and frequently the terms philosophy and ethics were included in the course title
- Most schools taught RE for around one hour a week in Key stage 3, and generally around 2 hours a week in key stage 4
- Other than Christianity the most common religion to study was Islam
- The numbers taking A level RE had fallen. Chris Giles was working with the RE Lead at Bewdley to promote A level RE; the University was running a course 'Out of this World' to show the juxtaposition between RE and Science with the aim of exciting and encouraged A level students to study RE
- Schools wished for support from SACRE with speakers and free resources. It was suggested that one way to support schools was to ensure best practice could be shared – for example how one school managed to devote 8% of teaching time to RE when most schools were not managing the recommended 5%.

The workforce data survey

This was a census carried out over a week in November asking schools for data on the amount of RE being taught. There was a problem with the fact that schools often called RE something different, so it was not being recorded as RE. The data was not reliable but could give an overview. Members agreed that there was merit in telling schools to be more accurate in the information they provided as the data was available to Ofsted and the DfE and appeared to be giving an inaccurate picture.

752 How can we monitor primary RE in Worcestershire beyond conference feedback

Stephen Pett explained that a survey which had previously been shown to SACRE members would be distributed around primary schools through Local Groups such as Rivers MAT and would be sent to teachers who had attended conferences and training organised by RE Today.

753 RE Report Card - Follow-up

This item was postponed to the next meeting.

754 SACRE Annual Reports

A draft annual report had been produced and SACRE were asked to agree to the format used. NASACRE had produced a template for annual reports using their preferred format, which would allow for easier review and comparison of annual reports, but it was not a legal requirement to use the suggested format.

It was suggested that the existing annual report could be adapted to inform schools of the work done by SACRE as the format accessible to schools. Conversely, the new format required more information regarding collective worship and it was suggested that schools would find that useful.

It was agreed that for this year the report should be submitted in the existing format and next summer the new format should be considered for the 2023 annual report.

755 National News Update

SACRE noted the news items included in the agenda.

756 Feedback from Members

Yvonne Stollard explained:

- as part of a group of Jewish SACRE representatives she would be attending a conference on World Views.
- The Board of Deputies were re-developing some resources and she had developed a virtual tour of Birmingham Progressive Synagogue. Once schools had seen the tour they were offered a 30 minute question and answer session.
- On 22 July 2022 a Plaque had been unveiled in Copenhagen Street in Worcester to commemorate Medieval Worcester's Jewish Community.
- On 27 January 2023 an event will be held at the Guildhall for Holocaust Memorial Day.

Ellie Hill updated SACRE that the University would be running its course for A level Students 'Out of this World' on 20 June 2023.

757 Future Meeting Dates

DATES 2023

- Monday 6 March, 2pm
- Thursday 8 June, 2pm
- Monday 9 October, 2pm

The meeting ended at 3.55pm

Chairman

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Thoughtful RE: creativity, progress, diversity **Tuesday 23 May 2023 ONLINE via ZOOM** **9.15am-3.45pm**

A day of inspiring support and ideas for your RE classroom. A suite of practical ideas and guidance for implementing the new agreed syllabus, from current theory to classroom practice. Clear advice on what makes for rich, engaging RE for you and your pupils – as well as meeting Ofsted requirements.

9.15-10.30 Session 1: 'Building knowledge and progression in primary RE Adam Robertson

How can we build knowledge and show progression using the syllabus? How can we help pupils to remember what they have learnt? How can we assess their progress? Practical strategies to implement in your planning and teaching.

10.45-11.45 Session 2: 'Ways of knowing' in RE Stephen Pett

National guidance (such as the new Ofsted Research Review and the CofE Statement of Entitlement) increasingly supports the idea that pupils should use different ways of knowing in RE. What does that mean? Why does it matter? And what does it look like in the primary classroom? Practical strategies on caring for the Earth (Jews and Christians KS1) and practising prayer (Christians, Muslims and Jews KS2).

12.00-1.15 Session 3: Helping pupils to write well in upper KS2 RE Adam Robertson

A selection of practical ideas for enabling pupils to show what they remember and understand, and ways to help them express their personal worldviews.

2.15-3.15 Session 4: Data on religion and non-religion: what is really going on? Stephen Pett

A chance to examine some fascinating data on how people believe, belong and behave. Using the recent 2021 Census data and surveys on beliefs about God, angels, life after death and non-religious worldviews, get your pupils (7-11s) to be scholars of data – thinking, questioning, analysing and applying.

Copies of all resources used on the day will be available to take away, and electronic copies available to download afterwards. A range of resources will be available to purchase or order on the day.

Who is it for?

The conference is aimed at teachers of RE from primary schools, including subject leaders and head teachers. It will also be valuable for governors to find out about and explore best practice in RE.

Aims:

- To explore excellent practice for implementing the Worcestershire Agreed Syllabus for RE, in the context of the new Ofsted Framework and RE Research Review 2021
- To provide practical support and guidance to schools in thinking about the intent of the syllabus and planning creative, challenging, thoughtful RE to implement it, increasing pupils' knowledge and understanding, as well as their personal development
- To give teachers confidence in planning and delivering great RE, deepening subject knowledge and skills
- To model examples of thoughtful RE, challenging all pupils and promoting deeper thinking

Cost: £95 per school. Attend as a staff for all or part of the day!
Receive recordings of the sessions to use within your school.

Booking details attached. Please email to mark@retoday.org.uk
or post to RE Today Services, 5/6 Imperial Court, 12 Sovereign Road, Birmingham, B30 3FH

Booking form:
Worcestershire Primary RE Conference:
Thoughtful RE
Tuesday 23rd May 2023
 Fee: £95 per school

(Use this as whole-school CPD throughout the day, or
 different teachers join different sessions live online; receive
 recordings of the sessions to use within your school)

Full Name(s):			
School Name:			
School Address:			
	Postcode:		
Telephone:			
Admin email address:			
Attending teachers' email addresses			
	Yes, teachers will be attending		
	Teachers will not be attending – but please send the recordings		
Payment details:			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Please invoice the school		
Invoice/ Credit Card billing address:			
	Postcode:		
<input type="checkbox"/>	I enclose a cheque, payable to RE Today Services		
<input type="checkbox"/>	I will pay by Visa, Mastercard or Switch		
Card number:			
Expiry Date:		Start Date:	
Security code (last 3 numbers on signature strip)		Issue no. (Switch)	
Signature:			
Date:			

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Send to: RE Today Services, 5/6 Imperial Court, 12 Sovereign Road, Birmingham, B30 3FH
 Tel: 0121 458 3313 Fax: 0121 285 1816
Email to: mark@retoday.org.uk

Three Counties Secondary RE Conference

Thursday 22 June 2023

Puckrup Hall Hotel, Tewkesbury, GL20 6EL

This will be a practical conference to explore a mix of active strategies and classroom resources. There is a focus on current issues in RE – from diversity to decolonising, worldviews to ‘ways of knowing’.

8.45-	Registration and refreshments
9.00-10.00	Worldviews, diversity, disciplines and personal knowledge: applying new thinking in RE <i>Stephen Pett</i> Practical responses to recent developments. An opportunity to look forward to syllabus developments – 2024 for Gloucestershire, 2025 for Worcestershire and Herefordshire.
10.15-11.15	Progressed learning about Muslim worldviews from Y7 to GCSE: 5 practical and inspiring examples <i>Lat Blaylock</i> Exploring Muslim worldviews to create a coherent progression, drawing on diverse contexts and applying varied ways of knowing
11.30-12.30	Decolonising RE? Interpretation, context and power <i>Becky Davidge, University of Worcester</i> What does it mean to draw attention to the legacies of power in our presentation of religion(s) in RE? Some thoughtful strategies
	Lunch
1.15-2.15	Global RE, Global Christianity: startling examples of a worldview you thought you knew <i>Lat Blaylock</i> This session will present 6 startling examples of Christianity that show it is not what you think. Going global and local, historical and prophetic, this session will challenge your presentation of Christianity to 11–14-year-olds.
2.20-3.20	Non-religious worldviews: studying diverse expressions <i>Stephen Pett</i> Applying disciplinary approaches to studying positive expressions of non-religiousness, including organised worldviews (e.g. Humanism) and individual or personal accounts (e.g. the worldviews of many of your pupils).
3.20-3.30	Evaluations

You will receive an electronic copy of all resources used on the day to take away, with additional material available to download afterwards. A wide range of resources from RE Today Services will be available to purchase or order on the day at discounted prices.

Fee: £95 per delegate; £150 for two delegates from the same school.

Booking details attached. Please email to mark@retoday.org.uk or post to **RE Today Services, 5/6 Imperial Court, 12 Sovereign Road, Birmingham, B30 3FH**

Why should I attend this conference?

- An opportunity to meet colleagues and share ideas
- Receive a rich variety of resources for classroom use
- Receive up-to-date, creative and inspiring training on things that matter in RE

But don't just take our word for it!

100% of attendees in 2022 rated the conference excellent!

- Thank you so much for giving up your time. Really enjoy/interested in research behind worldviews and how to explore worldviews. Practical examples modelled by Lat - thank you! Loved how we explored ideas and turned methods upside down.
- This is my annual 'plugin'! I love meeting other RE teachers and gaining such amazing knowledge and understanding.
- Excellent day with amazing resource is that can be adapted and taken into the classroom. Great to see some different approaches to how to deliver resources to students.
- Superb as usual. Inspirational and directly relevant to RE now. Lovely update on current dialogue and looking ahead.
- Excellent day full of useful ideas and links to learning. Good to be able to plan in some more up to date ideas. Good to share with others, making links.
- Fantastic day to really 'hone in' on key skills. Great content on both pedagogy and faith / worldview. World views was great to get to grips with. I liked the practical suggestions for use in the classroom.
- So good to be able to work collectively and in the real world again. I met some stimulating and supportive colleagues which is vital.
- Really enjoyed the segment on world views and excited to see how this develops. The venue was excellent! Really enjoyed the depth of the content on Sikhi.

90% of 2021 online attendees rated the day as excellent!

- Although very different - zoom! - still a fantastic day. As always I feel refreshed and positive about the future of RE. The ideas and topics were excellent and I will definitely be using many of the activities.
- I was surprised how close it came to the joy of attending a face to face conference. Lots of fantastic and inspiring ideas. Thank you both.
- As always, fantastic resources, ideas and new perspectives to explore. This conference reinvigorates me and at the end of this year, that has been especially needed! I particularly enjoyed the Anti-racist RS session. Thanks to all involved, brilliant.
- Wonderful day- great resources and really user friendly ideas. Marvellous.
- I can actually use all the ideas and resources in the classroom!
- Inspiring- it made me rethink my plans and critically examine my thinking on Islam

100% of 2019 attendees rated the day excellent!

- Excellent resources – informative and practical
- As always, excellent value for money and relevant materials with easily implemented ideas
- Always good to get together with like-minded people – new ideas every year.
- I absolutely love coming to these conferences and look forward to it each year. Stephen is so inspiring and always go back to my school with fresh and exciting ideas. Everybody should come to this!
- An excellent first experience. I enjoyed the diverse input.
- All very good, as per usual. Good length and variety of sessions linked clearly to research, resources, strategies and practice.
- This was my first RE Today conference and it was incredibly useful! I really enjoyed meeting new people and the quality of the content was amazing!
- Great resources and classroom techniques. GCSE support is always needed.
- This was a superb course. Angela and Stephen were so knowledgeable and great presenters. I've learnt so much! Thank you, this was a great event!

Booking form:
Three Counties Secondary RE Conference
Thursday 22 June 2023
Puckrup Hall Hotel, GL20 2EL
Fee: £95 per delegate; £150 for two delegates from the same school

Full Name(s):			
School Name:			
School Address:			
	Postcode:		
Telephone:			
Admin email address:			
Attending teacher emails:			
Payment details:			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Please invoice the school		
Invoice/ Credit Card billing address:			
		Postcode:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	I enclose a cheque, payable to RE Today Services		
<input type="checkbox"/>	I will pay by Visa, Mastercard or Switch		
Card number:			
Expiry Date:		Start Date:	
Security code <small>(last 3 numbers on signature strip)</small>		Issue no. (Switch)	
Signature:			
Date:			

Send to: RE Today Services, 5/6 Imperial Court, 12 Sovereign Road, Birmingham, B30 3FH
Tel: 0121 458 3313 **Fax:** 0121 285 1816
Email to: mark@retoday.org.uk

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Worcestershire RE: National Updates Spring 2023

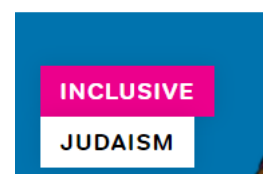
Worcestershire SACRE receives updates on what is happening in the world of RE. We thought you might like to have this information – about resources and events, and other news updates. Please pass this on to members of your community, RE subject leads and others interested in RE.

Resources

Inclusive Judaism: resources from the Jewish Museum of London

Classroom resources, including an extensive image library, open up the diversity of Jewish communities. Developers, Shereen Hunte and Eliana Mendelsohn, say: *The teaching of Inclusive Judaism is important for many reasons and ensures that:*

- *The Jewish community is represented authentically.*
- *Students truly understand what it means to be Jewish, in all its diversity.*
- *We are able to connect to each other's experiences with empathy and compassion.*



See: [Inclusive Judaism - The Jewish Museum London](#)

Visits, videos and other resources for the classroom

THE ARTS SOCIETY BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham faith visits

The Arts Society Birmingham has worked with six faith communities to provide guidance and materials on six places of worship. Teachers can find a 4-page booklet, three videos introducing the building and community, and a related quiz for each place of worship.

Supported by a generous grant from Westhill Endowment Trust, The Arts Society Birmingham has collaborated with six different places of worship, Birmingham Faith Leaders and other organisations to produce resources designed to enhance a school visit, or to support a virtual visit, to a place of worship for children 8 to 13 years.

Actual visits to the places of worship may be arranged by contacting them directly. Contact details are provided on the Illustrated Guides. <https://birmingham-faith-visits.theartsociety.org/>

£600 grants for teaching Christianity

The Jerusalem Trust's

Small Grants to Schools Scheme

Resourcing the teaching of Christianity within Religious Education

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, with 60% awarded to secondary schools and 40% to primary schools.

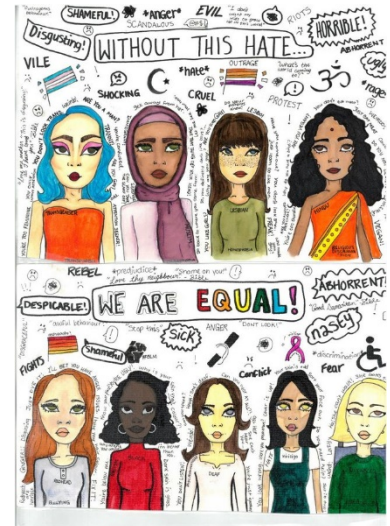
Details and application information: www.regrants.org.uk

NATRE Spirited Arts 2022 WINNERS!

Over 30,000 young people from around the world took part in the Spirited Arts competition last year, with entries from Australia, Bahrain and Thailand, as well as many from Stoke-on-Trent. 523 schools took part, selecting their pupils' best artworks, and sending 3196 entries for judging. 27 winners have been selected and are now in the [Spirited Arts online gallery](#).

Categories in the 2022 competition included:

- 'God's Good Earth?', which invited pupils to explore the threat of climate change and the beauty of the earth
- 'Searching for God', where pupils considered their personal search for God, regardless of whether they are atheist, agnostic, or believers in God, and
- 'A view of the world', where pupils were encouraged to explore their own worldview.



Mollie (13) - Winner

The competition is supported by the Jo Cox Foundation. This year entrants were invited to develop a creative response to the 2015 quote from the late Jo Cox MP: **"We are far more united and have far more in common than that which divides us"**.
www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/spirited-arts-gallery/2022/

NATRE Spirited Arts 2023 – new themes announced

Will your school join hundreds of schools from around the world taking part in this year's Spirited Arts competition? Entries are welcomed in (almost!) any art form pupils can think of. 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?

The 6 themes

1. "We have more in common than that which divides us."
2. Green faith, green future? ['God's good earth?']
3. Where is God today?
4. Faith in action, values in action.
5. Sacred space and holy buildings
6. All God's creatures?



More details here www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/spirited-arts-2023/

Training and CPD opportunities and other support

NATRE's annual Strictly RE conference took place in January 2023

The conference took place online for the third year.
The themes explored: **depth, diversity and Abrahamic worldviews.**

Although the conference is over, **all sessions were recorded**, and schools can buy access to all the recording for only £135 (£115 for NATRE members)



Workshops included:

- 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 the 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 SLTs)

To buy access contact courses@retoday.org.uk

Free webinars for primary and secondary ECTs – a taster for NATRE ECT membership

Early Career Teachers have access to a range of free support through a series of online sessions. 'Café' sessions give you a chance to talk with experienced teachers and experts from different worldview backgrounds. The taught sessions offer expert input with a focus on practical classroom strategies.

Date – All Mondays 4.00-5.30pm	Topic
13 Mar	Café NATRE – Subject knowledge Judaism
15 May	Taught session: Focus on Multidisciplinary RE
12 June	Taught session: Focus on Sikhi
10 July	Café NATRE: Subject knowledge Christianity

ECT webinars booking link www.natre.org.uk/membership/early-careers-teacher/ect-free-monthly-webinar/

Culham St Gabriel's 'In conversation' series

Extend your understanding of religion and worldviews, subject knowledge and pedagogy by listening in on conversations among teachers, researchers and other experts.

Two conversations are programmed for the spring:

- 20 Feb: 4-00-4.40pm Learning from experiences in Lebanon: diversity, solidarity and safeguarding human dignity
- 20 March 4.30-5.10pm RETOPEA! Promoting religious peace and tolerance through history

Details and booking info here: www.cstg.org.uk/activities/events/in-conversation/

Extensive back catalogue here: www.reonline.org.uk/research/in-conversation/

Regional RE Hub leads in place and ready to go!

Under the leadership of Claire Clinton, Lead Director, a fantastic team of Regional Leads will be supporting ten regions of England and Wales. They have been recruited to build relationships with advisers, dioceses, universities, SACREs, LAs, governors, MATs, teaching school hubs and more. The Regional Leads will also act as conduits between the regional providers of research, CPD, resources, places of worship and so on for the benefit of all RE/Religion and Worldview stakeholders.

The Regional Hub structure aims to increase accessibility for all teachers to local and regional professional development and research, and to enable teachers to teach with greater confidence through their access to the support, knowledge, training and resources available in their region.

Details and the list of Regional Leads:

www.natre.org.uk/news/latest-news/the-regional-re-hubs-team-is-ready-to-go/

West Midlands regional hub lead is **Chris Giles**.

NATRE: new membership packages!

NATRE is the largest membership organisation that promotes, defends and supports RE teachers and RE teaching. It does this through producing high-quality resources and CPD, lobbying government, being involved in conversations with the DfE and Ofsted, Local Authorities and SACREs, telling teachers' stories and experiences and being a voice for all teachers.



Membership packages for students, ECTs, teachers, schools, RE professionals and RE enthusiasts!

Details: www.natre.org.uk/membership

NATRE: welcome webinars for new members

New NATRE members are invited to a monthly welcome webinar. This will help them use their NATRE membership and enjoy it to its fullest!

What will they learn?

- How to Access NATRE resources
- Access online termly mailing resources
- Access Local Groups area
- Take the best out of the NATRE monthly newsletter
- How to redeem your REtoday library membership
- How to use your membership discount

Members can register their interest to attend a webinar at this link.

www.natre.org.uk/member-login/natre-members-welcome-webinar/

NATRE Primary Subject leader support pages

NATRE have created a new resource the primary subject leader toolkit. This has many resources and links to support your role as Religious Education/ Religion and Worldviews subject leader. All the content detailed and linked in these pages has been written and collated by Primary members of the NATRE Executive and RE Today Advisers.

www.natre.org.uk/primary/primary-subject-leader/

Other information

Research into parent views on Religious Education

In summer 2021, the Culham St Gabriel's Trust (CSTG) commissioned a survey to understand more about public perception of an education in religion and worldviews. In the summer of 2022, CSTG commissioned another survey, this time exploring the views of parents about education in religion and worldviews. In both cases, the language used in the questions was chosen to try to avoid these misconceptions and to collect a more accurate set of data about what people thought about modern RE.

Some key findings about what parents talk about with their children:

- Around 8 in 10 discuss beliefs about the origins of life and the universe (78%)
- 7 in 10 discuss beliefs concerning what happens when we die (72%)
- 8 in 10 discuss beliefs that affect people's behaviour and decision making (77%)
- 7 in 10 discuss issues related to religious and non-religious worldviews that appear in the media (67%)

Find out more here: www.cstg.org.uk/activities/campaigns/parent-survey/

Why does the rate of entry for GCSE RS vary so much around England? Does the 2021 Census provide part of the answer?

In answer to a parliamentary written question asked by Janet Daby MP and **answered by Nick Gibb MP in January**, the minister provided a table ranking each local authority in relation to the number of entries for GCSE Religious Studies in 2022. The range is significant; from 14.4% to 81.0%.

Looking for an explanation for this gap, NATRE tabulated the percentage of the population in each local authority that recorded they belonged to a religion in the 2021 Census alongside the average entries for GCSE. The correlation is interesting as you will see by the colour coded shading in the last column. Comparisons between the local authorities entering the most and the least students are worth noting as follows:

- An average of 57% of the English population, recorded that they had a religion in the 2021 census
- An average of 51% of the population, in the bottom 10 LAs in terms of entries for GCSE RS, recorded that they had a religion in the 2021 census.
- An average of 71% of the population, in the top 10 LAs in terms of entries for GCSE RS, recorded that they had a religion in the 2021 census.

The full table can be downloaded [here](#).

Even though this is correlation and not proven causation, SACREs may like to consider the following:

- How do entries in their LA compare with other LAs in their region and nationally?
- Does the census data provide part of the answer or not?
- Why do some LAs buck the trend implied by the census data – i.e. pupils appear to be more likely to be entered for GCSE RS in areas with a larger proportions of people who identify with a religious worldview?
- Might parental views of what their child should study be affecting curriculum design? See CSTG survey of parents above.
- What are the implications of the answers to these questions for Religious Education in England?

Find out more here: [Local Authorities entries for GCSE and census records](#)

Cross-party calls for RE National Plan after Westminster debate

London, 01 November 2022: A Westminster Hall debate 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.

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.

www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/?news=re-in-modern-britain-westminster-hall-debate

Shortage of Specialist Secondary RE Teachers

NATRE and the RE Council's RE Policy Unit have collaborated with Culham St Gabriel's Trust on a Policy Briefing on the current shortage of subject specialist secondary teachers for religious education. It provides a useful source of information about the national picture of recruitment and for arguments to press for government action.

Key findings

- The DfE has missed its RE recruitment target in 9 of the last 10 years
- [25% of RE](#) lessons are taught by teachers with no post A-level qualification
- 51% of teachers of RE, mainly teach another subject (28% Geography, 27% History, 13% of English teachers)
- The number of graduates from Theology and Religious Studies courses in 2020/21 was approximately (including joint honours) 1300. Only around 10% of whom go on to enrol in ITT.
- RE teacher numbers have fallen by 1800 (-10.9%) since 2011.
- RE teacher recruitment is now a post code lottery, with areas such as the East-Midlands and the North East being particularly badly affected.
- Concerns have been raised by faith community members regarding representation and accuracy of RE.
- Positive [parental opinion](#) of the subject is around 70%, with a recognition that the subject is vital in the preparation of young people for life in the modern world.
- Despite this, DfE have spent [£0 on RE projects between 2016 and 2022](#). Maths has received £154 million.

[Access the documents here.](#)

Minister admits most Teachers of RE mainly teach another subject

In response to the **parliamentary written question** asked by Janet Daby MP, minister for school standards; Nick Gibb MP admitted that 51% of the total number of secondary teachers of RE spend most of their teaching timetable delivering a different subject. Only 27% of teachers of History, 28% of Geography and 13% of English fall into this category. This statistic lends further support for the call for immediate action to boost the number of trainee teachers of RE after the government, yet again, refused to offer trainees teachers of RE a bursary and, unsurprisingly, recruitment is currently down 32% on last year (22% for all subjects).

NATRE believes pupils deserve better, and that they should be taught by well-trained and qualified teachers. According to the government's own **teacher standards** (3), teachers must "demonstrate good subject and curriculum knowledge". It is difficult to see how these can be met when the proportion of specialist teachers is so low.

School leaders struggling to recruit RE specialists blame the DfE, especially as they **recently justified the decision**, on the basis that in one single year in the last ten (2020/21), the target was exceeded, conveniently ignoring the fact that it had previously **stated**, "In 2020/21, we saw an unprecedented increase in new entrants to ITT compared to the previous year, which was likely to be a direct result of the impact of COVID-19..."

You can find detailed arguments and statistics to support the case for action to support government action including the restoration of bursaries here:

[The case for ITT bursaries 2023](#)

NATRE survey of provision for RE in primary schools published

Key highlights from the survey show:

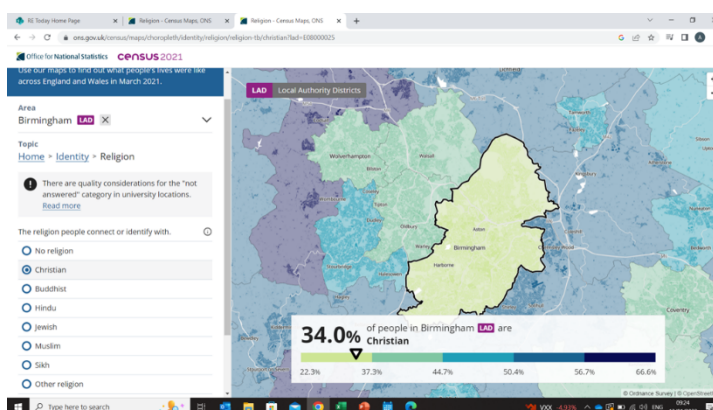
- The number of schools where pupils are withdrawn is increasing. 23% of schools report some withdrawal from RE (18.6% in 2020. and 16% in 2018).
- 96% of schools report that they make provision for RE for all pupils in their school.
- More than 40% of teachers report that they received between 0 and 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 more [here](#) and an infographic [here](#):

Office for National Statistics publishes Census 2021 data on religion

- For the first time in a census of England and Wales, less than half of the population (46.2%, 27.5 million people) described themselves as “Christian”, a 13.1 percentage point decrease from 59.3% (33.3 million) in 2011; despite this decrease, “Christian” remained the most common response to the religion question.
- “No religion” was the second most common response, increasing by 12.0 percentage points to 37.2% (22.2 million) from 25.2% (14.1 million) in 2011.
- There were increases in the number of people who described themselves as “Muslim” (3.9 million, 6.5% in 2021, up from 2.7 million, 4.9% in 2011) and “Hindu” (1.0 million, 1.7% in 2021, up from 818,000, 1.5% in 2011).
- Wales had a greater decrease in people reporting their religion as “Christian” (14.0 percentage point decrease, from 57.6% in 2011 to 43.6% in 2021) and increase in “No religion” (14.5 percentage point increase, from 32.1% in 2011 to 46.5% in 2021) compared with England and Wales overall.
- London remains the most religiously diverse region of England in 2021, with over a quarter (25.3%) of all usual residents reporting a religion other than “Christian”; the North East and South West are the least religiously diverse regions, with 4.2% and 3.2%, respectively, selecting a religion other than “Christian”.



Explore our region and the surrounding area

using this interactive online map: www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps

Theos Report: Who are the Nones and what do they believe?



This report published on 24th November, shortly before the census data above was released explores the demography, beliefs and practices of Nones and then presents a cluster analysis of this group. It shows that Nones comprise a complex and sometimes counter-intuitive group with, for example, only 51% of them stating they “don’t believe in God,” and 42% believing in some form of the supernatural.

Download the full report here:

www.theosthinktank.co.uk/research/2022/10/31/the-nones-who-are-they-and-what-do-they-believe

Draft Resource for Religion and Worldviews in the Classroom

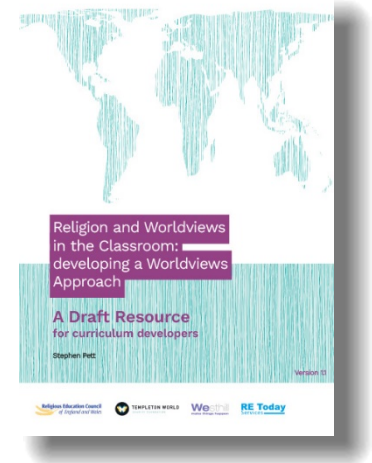
As part of a three-year Worldviews project, the RE Council of England and Wales (REC) has published a draft resource for Religion and Worldviews in the Classroom.

The resource sets out a rationale for a religion and worldviews approach, building on the developments since the 2018 Commission report. It incorporates a revised **National Statement of**

Entitlement (NSE), which gives a clear description of an education in religion and worldviews, and sets a benchmark for high-quality teaching and learning. The resource then offers practical guidance, including how to use the NSE to develop a syllabus or curriculum, applying ways of knowing, developing pupils' personal worldviews, and what progress looks like in a worldviews approach.

Sections include:

- What do people mean by 'religion'?
- What do people mean by 'worldview'?
- The value of worldviews
- Purposes for RE in a religion and worldviews approach
- **Revised National Statement of Entitlement**
- Developing pupils' personal worldviews
- Making good progress
- Applying disciplinary methods
- How to use the NSE to develop a syllabus
- How to use the NSE to develop questions and construct units of work
- Making good progress: three models



The resource is primarily written to inform three Framework Development Teams, who are currently working to apply the NSE and the guidance to their own contexts. During this process, the draft resource will be tested and revised as necessary, before the publication of a final Handbook, three example frameworks, sample units of work and pupil responses, in 2024.

You can download copies of here: www.religiouseducationcouncil.org.uk/projects/draft-handbook-and-nse/

News updates created for Worcestershire SACRE by RE Today Services, February 2023

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CENSUS 2011	Population	Christian	Buddhist	Hindu	Jewish	Muslim	Sikh	Other religion	No religion	Humanist	Religion not stated
Worcestershire	566,169	382,240	1,268	1,145	355	7,466	1,413	2,061	131,861	172	38,360
Gloucestershire	596,984	379,144	1,772	2,222	539	5,741	449	2,940	159,496	211	44,681
Herefordshire	183,477	124,403	562	228	131	364	80	893	41,766	72	15,050
Shropshire	306,129	210,268	792	378	127	989	256	1,113	69,725	123	22,481
Monmouthshire	91,323	57,101	269	162	65	239	47	391	26,018	43	7,031
Powys	132,976	82,120	567	324	80	235	49	798	37,050	67	11,753
West Midlands	2,736,460	1,471,780	9,119	59,768	3,060	332,684	116,715	15,181	554,152	469	174,001
Birmingham	1,073,045	494,358	4,780	22,362	2,205	234,411	32,376	5,646	206,821	219	70,086
England	53,012,456	31,479,876	238,626	806,199	261,282	2,660,116	420,196	227,825	13,114,232	14,252	3,804,104
ENGLAND AND WALES	56,075,912	33,243,175	247,743	816,633	263,346	2,706,066	423,158	240,530	14,097,229	15,067	4,038,032

CENSUS 2021	Population	Christian	Buddhist	Hindu	Jewish	Muslim	Sikh	Other religion	No religion	Humanist	Religion not stated
Worcestershire	603,679	319,892	1,691	1,882	416	10,881	2,310	1,485	228,889	99	34,958
%	100	53.00	0.30	0.30	0.10	1.80	0.40	0.25	37.90	0.02	5.80
Gloucestershire	645,079	317,610	2,383	3,777	688	9,347	761	2,031	266,775	183	40,042
%	100	49.20	0.40	0.60	0.10	1.40	0.10	0.31	41.40	0.03	6.20
Herefordshire	187,039	102,614	646	384	142	790	117	508	68,404	70	12,962
%	100	54.90	0.30	0.20	0.10	0.40	0.10	0.27	36.60	0.04	6.90
Shropshire	323,601	179,516	895	557	182	1,708	760	773	119,482	92	18,931
%	100	55.50	0.30	0.20	0.10	0.50	0.20	0.24	37.00	0.03	5.90
Birmingham	1,144,912	389,406	4,340	21,997	1,687	341,811	33,126	5,084	276,227	100	69,856
%	100	34.00	0.40	1.90	0.10	29.90	2.90	0.44	24.10	0.01	6.10
England	56,490,038	26,167,904	262,437	1,020,539	269,295	3,801,182	520,090	231,470	20,706,073	9,575	3,400,553
		46.3%	0.5%	1.8%	0.5%	6.7%	0.9%	0.4%	36.7%	0.02%	6.0%

Worcestershire: changes 2011-2021

% Christian 2011	67.51	% Christian 2021	53.00	% Change	-21.50
% Buddhist 2011	0.22	% Buddhist 2021	0.30	% Change	33.95
% Hindu 2011	0.20	% Hindu 2021	0.30	% Change	48.34
% Jewish 2011	0.06	% Jewish 2021	0.10	% Change	59.48
% Muslim 2011	1.32	% Muslim 2021	1.80	% Change	36.50
% Sikh 2011	0.25	% Sikh 2021	0.40	% Change	60.27

% Total Pagan Traditions 2011	0.14	% Total Pagan Traditions 2021	0.19	% Change	37.87
% other religion other than pagan traditions 2011	0.22	% other religions other than pagan traditions 2021	0.25	% Change	10.45
% Humanism 2011	0.030	% Humanism 2021	0.016	% Change	-85.25
% No religion other than Humanists 2011	23.3	% No religion other than Humanists 2021	37.92	% Change	63.01
% Religion not stated 2011	6.8	% Religion not stated 2021	5.80	% Change	-14.40

Pagan traditions include:

Animism, Druid, Heathen, Mysticism, New Age, Occult, Pagan, Pantheism, Reconstructionist, Shamanism, Thelemite, Vodun, Wicca, Witchcraft.