

Tameside and Oldham

RE Newsletter



SUMMER TERM 2

JUNE 2022

LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS

SCHOOLS WELCOME! AT PLACES OF WORSHIP IN TAMESIDE

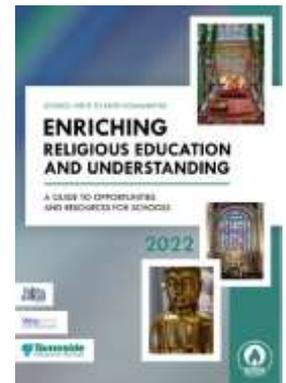
Engagement with people of different faiths is a critical element of diversity and community cohesion. This can take the form of a visit to a faith community or receiving a visitor in an assembly, class or special event.

The Tameside Schools Welcome project has been funded and supported by Tameside SACRE and the Westhill NASACRE Awards. The project aims to simplify the planning and preparation of school visits by offering schools a comprehensive guide to local places of worship along with resources and support to focus and extend learning.

Volunteers at places of worship are offered training and ongoing CPD to ensure visits are relevant and engaging.

The Faith Visits Directory (Tameside) and student resources for selected places of worship can be [downloaded here](#).

There is also a [short film](#) introducing the project and highlighting the opportunities it offers to schools.



SACRE SURVEY OF RE PROVISION IN SECONDARY AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Every local authority has a Standing Advisory Council on RE (SACRE). This has a statutory duty to produce a syllabus for RE and to support and monitor RE in all primary schools (including academies).

Earlier this year, SACREs in Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds and Tameside asked secondary schools to complete a brief survey about the provision of RE. Over 80% of schools replied and, as well as being helpful to SACRE, enabled them to offer some tailored support which has made a real difference in a number of schools. In the next few weeks a similar survey is being sent to secondary schools in Oldham and to all primary schools in five SACRE areas. If you don't get a letter, please contact us for the link (enquiries@penninelearning.com). We are very grateful for your help with this and trust it will help you too. The survey takes 5 minutes or less, honest!

There are also **vacancies for primary and secondary teachers** on all SACREs, and especially in Leeds. There are four meetings a year, generally late afternoon. Membership will give you an insight into RE at the local authority level, contacts with faith community members and will really help us hear the voice of practising teachers. If you are interested contact Alastair Ross alastair@penninelearning.com

SECONDARY RS PRACTITIONER NETWORK: NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Tameside has joined with Oldham this academic year and moving forwards, to run the Secondary RS Practitioner Network. This is an opportunity for Subject Leaders across all schools and academies to come together and share good practice. There are 3 meetings per year, currently 2 in person and one virtual. Our most recent meeting at Fairfield High School for Girls included presentations about adaptive teaching, Ofsted and SACRE.

New members are always welcome. Dates for academic year 2022 – 2023 are to be confirmed. Please send any queries or questions to Kate O'Connell at k.oconnell@saddleworthschool.org

UNDERSTANDING HAJJ AND EID-UL-ADHA FOR PRIMARY RE TEACHERS

This year the Hajj pilgrimage takes place around 8 – 12 July, followed by the celebration of Eid-ul-Adha. Muslim Learner Services offers a webinar at 4pm on **Thursday 7th July 2022** to refresh teachers' subject knowledge, taking them through a step-by-step guide on how Muslims perform Hajj/pilgrimage to Mecca. The material includes lesson and assembly material on Islamic stories that link to Biblical stories, giving confidence to teach about Hajj accurately.



Cost: £25. To book your place [click HERE](#) or contact Imran Kotwal Tel. 01204 896115 www.muslimlearnerservices.org

UNDERSTANDING ISLAM: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR SCHOOLS

This practical and informative course will be invaluable for school leaders who want to develop their understanding of Islam and some of the issues and sensitivities that may arise in school. The introduction to Islam will include a tour of the mosque, important areas for awareness including Ramadan/Eid, prayer, food, clothing and head covering and curriculum matters such as sport, swimming, RE, PSHE and music.

There will be an opportunity for dialogue with local Muslim leaders and educators, as well as local authority advisers.

Date: **Monday 10th October 2022** at Makkah Mosque, Leeds Cost: £120 including lunch and refreshments.

Book via enquiries@penninelearning.com

EXPLORE FOUR FAITHS IN A DAY ON THE BRADFORD FAITH TRAIL

Ever wondered what's in a church, masjid, mandir or gurdwara? The Bradford Faith Trail offers a unique opportunity to discover a little bit about Muslim, Hindu, Sikh and Christian (Roman Catholic and Church of England) faith buildings, about the faiths within and how they link into Bradford's local community culture and faith heritage. The Faith Trail normally takes place on the first Saturday of the month from March-October and can be walked on foot in a day. The whole trail starts at 10am at St Peter's Catholic Church and finishes at approx 3:45pm at Bradford Cathedral. The trail is free but booking is essential. Further details on [Bradford Cathedral website](#).

NATIONAL NEWS AND EVENTS

LANDMARK DATA REVIEW REVEALS UNDERFUNDING AND NEGLECT OF RE

A comprehensive 'state of RE' data analysis, carried out by a team from the Religious Education Council of England and Wales (REC), the National Association of Teachers of Religious Education (NATRE) and RE Today Services, has revealed the extent of the underfunding and neglect of RE over recent years. Despite an increase in students taking RS at GCSE and A Level, no government money has been spent on the subject in the last five years, while many academies fail to offer the high-quality RE provision that, according to Ofsted, 'affords students the opportunity to make sense of their own place in the world'.



The most significant findings from the review are:

- A 50% increase in A-level entries for Religious Studies (RS) since 2003, beating Geography and History
- Higher Attainment 8 scores than average in schools with higher rates of entry for GCSE RS
- 46% of academies without a religious character have reported an increase in time to teach RE

However:

- Almost 500 secondary schools are still reporting zero hours of RE provision in Year 11
- Around 34% of academies are reporting no timetabled RE

The report card summarising the data review can be accessed here: www.rethinkre.org/re-report-card

NATRE PRIMARY SURVEY 2022- HAVE YOUR SAY!

NATRE is conducting a survey to obtain information about the current state of RE in all types of schools for Primary age children, so that it can continue to support the teacher in the classroom by raising awareness of the impact of government policy on RE. Make sure you have your say before the end of July. [Survey link here.](#)

THE RE QUALITY MARK IS 10 YEARS OLD

The RE Quality Mark is 10 years old! The RE Quality Mark (REQM) is a great way to celebrate RE in your school – and to demonstrate how RE can take a lead in overall school improvement.

Visit [RE Online](#) to see up-to-date blogs, advice and resources showing everything the REQM has to offer you and your school. www.reqm.org



POST-16 DIGEST OFFERS FRESH IDEAS FOR A-LEVEL RE TEACHERS

RE Online offers a wealth of information and resources to support RE at all levels. Their [Post -16 digest](#) is full of interesting, useful and relevant books, articles, videos and podcasts to develop and improve teacher knowledge and understanding. There are fresh ideas for A-Level RE to bring to the classroom. The digest is produced by Rachael Jackson-Royal, RE head of department and exams and higher education officer on the NATRE executive.

INVITATION TO MEET PALESTINIAN & ISRAELI TEACHERS IN CAMBRIDGE IN JULY

In July 2019, [Solutions Not Sides](#) took 10 British teachers from across the country to Cambridge to meet some of their contemporaries from across Israel-Palestine - Palestinians, Jews, Druze, and Bedouin. Organised with Jerusalem PeaceBuilders and Retorika, these teachers had a unique opportunity to meet and share their experiences on teaching conflict resolution and understanding conflict in divided societies.

Teachers are now invited join the 2022 Cambridge Teacher's Day on July 21st 2022 - they have up to 20 FREE places for teachers from across the UK. For information and booking contact ali@solutionsnotsides.co.uk

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

THEOLOGY AND RE WEBINARS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHESTER

Looking to increase your subject knowledge? Join University of Chester for @TRSChester's A-level Religious Studies Webinars. In short, sharp online sessions, lecturers from the University of Chester engage with A Level Religious Studies topics such as How do feminists read the Bible? and Does the ontological argument work?

All levels are welcome at the weekly twilight sessions in June and July.

[Click here](#) for more information

CULHAM ST GABRIEL'S SELF-STUDY COURSES AND MASTERS SCHOLARSHIPS

Culham St Gabriel's offers a number of free online self-study courses for teachers. Topics include an Introduction to Religion and Worldviews and Curriculum planning. The courses take about 60 – 90 minutes to complete.

[Browse courses here.](#)



Culham St Gabriel's is offering a Masters Scholarship to help teachers of religion and worldviews (RE) to take a relevant part-time Masters course in an affordable, manageable way. It offers the teacher an opportunity to take Masters-level professional development at reduced cost, and to see the impact of it in their own teaching, in a local network and/or nationally. There are a limited number of scholarship places allocated each year.

Closing date for applications: **Friday 24th June 2022** [Find out more here.](#)

VIRTUAL TEACHERS CPD: INCLUSIVE JUDAISM AND SCRIPTURAL REASONING

Inclusive Judaism: What does it actually mean to be Jewish? Is Judaism a religion, culture or ethnicity? How do I teach Judaism holistically, whilst giving space to the different intersectional communities? Virtual Teachers CPD, offered by the Jewish Museum London, explores what it really means to be Jewish and how best to teach an authentic and inclusive Judaism in your classrooms. This CPD is open to both Primary and Secondary School Teachers. Date: 6th July 2022 4 - 5:30pm via Zoom Tickets: £10

[Book your place here.](#)

Religions and Worldviews through the Lens of Scripture: Many primary teachers feel they lack the expertise, confidence and resources to deliver the quality religious education they would like. The Story Tent seeks to address these concerns by providing resources that develop skills for intercultural and interfaith dialogue through an inquiry-based approach with an exploration of difference at its heart. Date: 6th July 2022 4.15 - 5:15pm online. Free

[Book a free place here.](#)

AREIAC CONFERENCE 2022: PLURALITY IN RELIGION AND WORLDVIEWS

AREIAC is hosting its national conference on Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th July 2022. The conference will explore the plural and diverse nature of worldviews and the lived traditions of communities, families and individuals. The conference is open to everyone interested in supporting excellence in RE and you do not have to be a member of AREIAC to attend.

Find out more information by visiting [AREIAC website here](#)

RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS

FREE RESOURCES TO CELEBRATE RELAUNCH OF HUMANISM WEBSITE

The Understanding Humanism website has relaunched with over 100 new FREE resources to support teaching about humanism and non-religious worldviews. Resources for ages 5-18 are organised into several core areas of knowledge to support young people's understanding of a humanist approach to life, humanist history, and the influence of humanism on the modern world. Visit their [website here](#).



Humanists UK offers **twilight training webinars** for teachers at both primary and secondary level on 5th and 7th July 2022. These will deepen subject knowledge of humanism, and support you with practical ideas for the classroom. Visit the [training page here](#).

GRANTS OFFERED TO SCHOOLS FOR TEACHING ABOUT CHRISTIANITY IN RE

The Jerusalem Trust's Small Grants to Schools Scheme supports teaching about 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.

For further information about the application process visit [regrants.org.uk](#)

FREE THEMED RESOURCES OFFERED BY NATRE

Take a look at the new resource area on the NATRE website, where you can find resources sorted by different themes: from Anti-bullying, Anti-racist RE, Real people Real Faith and more.

Find resources on [Natre website here](#).

Pennine Learning social media pages offer everything from the most recent training opportunities, to critical developments and instant networking. We are on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).



The [Pennine Learning website](#) offers resources including guidance and advice for RE, SMSC and Equalities. Our events page will keep you up to date with courses and networks.



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