

For teachers and schools in the north

The RE Newsletter

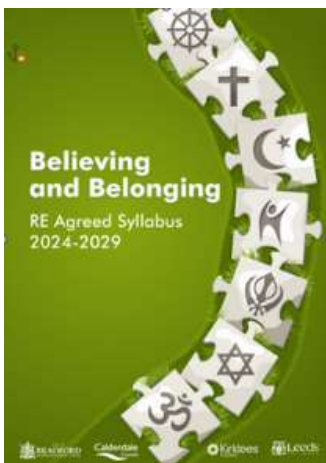


SUMMER TERM 1

APRIL 2024

NEWS AND EVENTS

RE SYLLABUS 'BELIEVING AND BELONGING' AGREED BY WEST YORKSHIRE SACRES



Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees and Leeds SACREs have agreed their new local RE syllabus for 2024 – 2029. 'Believing and Belonging' is now out and ready for teaching from September 2024 in all maintained schools and all academy schools that opt to use it.

A joint Local Agreed Syllabus Conference was held on Tuesday 12th March at Dewsbury Town Hall with a good number of representatives from all four SACREs present. It was encouraging to see the enthusiasm and interest shown by SACRE members as more than a year of work on the content and structure of the syllabus was finally completed and approved.

The conference included representatives from all faith and belief communities, as well as local councillors and teachers. It felt like a fitting end to the process and the final vote to agree and promote the use of the syllabus was wholehearted and positive.

Many features of the previous syllabus from 2019 have been retained and developed but there are new features:

- Content is taught through six broad pathways enabling more **systematic sequencing** of the curriculum.
- The syllabus no longer specifies that certain religions should be taught at specific key stages but allows for **incremental understanding of all faiths**.
- The **units of work** have been rewritten and new ones added.
- There are now **core** units of work based on the pathways and additional **focus** units which deepen and extend knowledge in specific chosen areas.



The syllabus is free for all maintained and academy schools in the area.

A shortened form is [available here](#) and the full version can be accessed by your local authority intranet or by emailing enquiries@penninelearning.com.

LAUNCH OF THE SYLLABUS AND TRAINING FOR TEACHERS

Launch and training events have been planned for the summer term. There are still places and all are free to attend, wherever you teach, but you need to book as indicated below:

Calderdale: 18th April 1pm – 3:30pm at the Shay. Book through enquiries@penninelearning.com

Kirklees: 29th April 1pm – 3:30pm at The Hudawi Centre. Book through <https://kirkleesbusinesssolutions.uk/>

Leeds: 7th May 1pm – 3:30pm at The Civic Hall. Book through <https://www.leedsforlearning.co.uk/>

Bradford: 13th June 1pm – 3:30pm Margaret McMillan Tower. Book <https://bso.bradford.gov.uk/Schools/Home.aspx>

PLANNING AND LESSON RESOURCES – SUBSCRIPTIONS AND A SPECIAL OFFER

An **extensive folder of detailed planning** with over 60 units of work is managed by Kirklees Council on behalf of all the constituent local authorities. These cover EYFS, key stages 1-3 and non-examined KS4.

A one-off subscription costs **£220 per school (no annual payment – this lasts five years)**.

To subscribe and gain access follow the [instructions here](#). Samples of units from each key stage can be found at <https://www.penninelearning.com/resources>. Scroll down to the samples and pick any you would like to download.

For the first time, in addition, the syllabus authors are offering a **full set of sequenced resources** to support every core lesson from Key Stage 1-4.

These include:

- A PowerPoint presentation to cover lessons in each core unit, with recap, guidance and quizzes
- A Knowledge Organiser for every unit of work
- Access to a termly planning support webinar



These resources are tailored to this syllabus and not a general one-size-fits-all, costing little more than a day's supply cover.

The full package would normally cost £500 per key stage but for pre-orders the cost will be **£280 for the whole primary or secondary phase**, a one-off charge covering the five-year life of the syllabus with no annual repeat payments.



[Samples of PowerPoints and Knowledge Organisers can be found here.](#)

Resources will be released in three tranches – one in time for each term in the school year 2024-25.

To order or enquire contact enquiries@penninelearning.com.

INTER FAITH NETWORK FOR THE UK TO CLOSE AT END OF APRIL 2024

The Board of Trustees of the Inter Faith Network for the UK has reluctantly agreed that the charity will close at the end of April 2024. This is linked to withdrawal by Government of funding for July 2023-March 2024. In a letter to IFN's Co-Chairs from Secretary of State Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, it was confirmed that the offer of funding was being withdrawn. Following this communication, the Inter Faith Network board did not feel that the quality and professionalism of their organisation could realistically be maintained without some form of government funding to underpin all the work done by faith communities and voluntary organisations.



It is hoped that some strands of IFN's wider work, including Inter Faith Week, may be taken forward by local and voluntary groups in the future. IFN will be convening a final meeting of the Faith Communities Forum to set in motion conversations about how faith communities across the UK may choose to engage with each other post-IFN.

Read the full press statement [here](#). Read a message from the Interfaith Network Co-chairs [here](#).

SPIRITED ARTS COMPETITION: DEADLINE FOR ENTRY 31ST JULY 2024

Use creativity and self-expression to make learning in RE fun. Entries are welcome in any art form, including art (painting, drawing, sketching, etc), poetry, photography, dance, music, drama, sculpture.

Deadline for entries is **31st July 2024**. Further information on NATRE website [here](#).

IDENTITY UNBOXED: ENGAGING PARENTS IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

This project aims to engage parents and their children with key artefacts or objects in their own homes. Families can offer to 'host' these chosen objects and, with the support of specially developed resources, they can investigate them in their own space: applying their personal knowledge/ worldview as a lens to help appreciate their own and others' beliefs, practices and values.



Find information and a video introduction to the project [here](#).

HOLOCAUST CENTRE NORTH TRAVEL SUBSIDY SCHEME FOR SCHOOL VISITS

Thanks to funding from the University of Huddersfield, Holocaust Centre North can refund schools up to £300 towards transport costs when they book a class onto one of their learning programmes.

Holocaust Centre North, based at Huddersfield University, offers sessions designed to deepen students' knowledge and understanding of the causes, consequences, and legacies of the Holocaust. This means addressing common misconceptions, fostering critical thinking skills, and highlighting why it is important to study the Holocaust in the present. By engaging with these collections, students will learn about the history of the Holocaust through the stories of survivors and refugees who made new lives in the North of England.



Find information about opportunities for schools and transport subsidy [here](#).

RE PODCAST TALKS ABOUT TOPICAL ISSUES - AND THE RE QUALITY MARK



Religious Education deals with some of the most topical, important, and interesting questions you can think of. 'The RE Podcast' deals with these questions in a simple way, but also in a way that will make teachers and students think. Each episode offers stories, statistics, religious teaching, and opinions on a specific topic. See the full list of podcasts [here](#).

A recent episode gives details about the **RE Quality Mark** outlining the impact the award can have on the subject within the school and wider community. To listen to the REQM episode, which features Calderdale RE teacher and REQM assessor Jake Womack, follow [this link](#).

Check out the updated [REQM webpage](#) – with working map – to see how you can achieve this recognition for your school and add more pins to our region!

RECRUITMENT OF RE TEACHERS: SOCIAL MEDIA, BURSARIES AND BUSINESS

Religion and worldviews education plays a vital role in educating the next generation. It is an essential part of supporting pupils to navigate our diverse society and well-trained RE teachers are needed to provide high quality teaching. Culham St Gabriel's is continuing its campaign to recruit more trainee RE teachers. Along with promotional films and presentations, they have created a set of social media 'cards' to promote recruitment of new teachers. Download the cards and view other presentations [here](#).



The restoration of the training bursary for Secondary RE has boosted numbers of applicants by a third. Read more about the impact of training bursaries on RE teacher training and recruitment [here](#).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

RE HUBS: NETWORKING MEETING FOR RE LEADERS IN MATS

This networking event for RE leaders in MATs will take place on **25 April 2024 from 4 pm to 5.30 pm**. It will be free for all RE leads in MATs who have NATRE or AREIAC membership.



Find out more about this training, plus other CPD, networking and resources on the RE Hub website [here](#).

UNDERSTANDING CHRISTIANITY COURSE NOW AVAILABLE FOR SELF-STUDY

You can now study the popular Understanding Christianity course at your own pace and time. Participants also get the slimline folder with the Frieze and booklet and are awarded with a certificate of completion. The cost is £210 for the six-module course.

Find out more and book a place [here](#).

WHAT DOES GOOD RE LOOK LIKE? VIDEO RESOURCE FOR STAFF MEETING

What does good RE look like? In this video (6 minutes), academics Dr Tim Hutchings, Dr Céline Benoit and Dr Rachael Shillitoe discuss why good Religious Education matters. RE teachers from primary and secondary schools share their own views. This would be a useful starting point for staff discussion. This is the first in a series of films introducing the Religion and Worldviews curriculum.

Find a link to this video and others in the series on the Nottingham University website [here](#).

CULHAM ST GABRIEL'S FREE E-LEARNING COURSES



Have you tried any of Culham St Gabriel's free online courses? Expand your knowledge, understanding and skills in areas such as research, curriculum, subject knowledge and Religion and Worldviews.

Browse and sign up for courses [here](#).

RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS

TOGETHER FOR HUMANITY: BUILDING BRIDGES IN SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES



'Together' is a coalition of UK's best-known organisations that aim to build a kinder, closer and more connected society. Its latest campaign - 'Together for Humanity' - is building a movement to stand against rising antisemitism and anti-Muslim hate in the UK amidst the conflict in Israel and Palestine. This campaign is working to support schools, universities and councils to build bridges in their communities at this difficult time in our history.

They recently hosted an online event called 'Navigating difficult conversations in schools and colleges in times of conflict'. A recording of this event and further resources for schools to help with dealing with contentious topics can be found here <https://www.togetherforhumanity.co.uk/partners>

Visit the website for details about 'Together for Humanity' [here](#).

JERUSALEM TRUST OFFERS GRANTS TO SUPPORT TEACHING OF CHRISTIANITY

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

Visit the [Jerusalem Grants Homepage](#) to see details of current grant opportunities.

ASSEMBLIES FOR ALL: FREE RESOURCES FOR INCLUSIVE ASSEMBLIES

The Assemblies for All website features hundreds of interactive, meaningful assemblies made by education professionals, from charities like Amnesty, Unicef, and Oxfam, to organisations such as UK Parliament and the BBC. They provide a fantastic way to support the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of young people. The assemblies are arranged by theme, organisation, key stage, and, for many of them, by a corresponding event in the calendar. Visit the website [here](#).

CHALLENGING RELIGIOUS STEREOTYPES: NEW RESOURCES AND STRATEGIES



Are you aware of religious or non-religious worldview stereotyping operating in your school and affecting your classroom? The 'Challenging Religious and Worldview Stereotypes' toolkit is a resource to support schools with practical strategies and ideas of how to deal with the topic of stereotyping and provides reflections and ideas for how to overcome it. It contains easy-to-use classroom resources and specially created films on which to base teaching within RE, PSHE or Citizenship lessons. The toolkit is free to download and use.

Download the toolkit [here](#). Resources, PowerPoint slides and films can be accessed via the links in the toolkit.

FREE CURRICULUM PLANNING FOR EARLY YEARS RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Books at Press offers books and other resources to support RE in the Early Years curriculum. They provide a variety of FREE planning support documents to integrate the books with other classroom activities.

Find out more on the Books at Press website [here](#).

WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA? CBEEBIES EXPLORES BIG THEMES FOR LITTLE PEOPLE



This Cbeebies series explores ideas such as love, friends, jealousy in a way that younger pupils can understand. Many of the films would be useful to support RE lessons for EY and KS1.

Find the full series on the BBC [here](#).

RESEARCH ROUND-UP

ENGLISH RE: UNDER PRESSURE?

RE Council Board Member, Paul Smalley, explores four pressures on English RE in a paper published in the Journal of RE. He discusses the potential pressures of increased academisation, alleged secularisation, funding, and teacher recruitment. He considers

“whether the RE community might gain solace from a realisation that these challenges have been overcome at other points in history.” Find a link to the full article on the REC website [here](#).



RE:EXCHANGE VIRTUAL CONFERENCE – SAVE THE DATE

This free virtual event offers teachers and researchers the opportunity to meet and share ideas and knowledge to support teaching and learning in RE. Save the date – **Friday 18th – Saturday 19th October 2024** via Zoom. Registration opens in May.

More details [here](#).



Newsletter produced for teachers and schools in Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds, Oldham, Tameside and Sefton – and anyone else who might find it useful! Pennine Learning is contracted by these councils to support statutory responsibilities for RE and SACRE. We work hard to make sure information is correct and up to date but cannot accept liability for any errors or changes to third party information. Views and items do not necessarily represent the views of the Councils. To contact us please email enquiries@penninelearning.com.